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CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

CEMA Deputy Secretary Szopa on Transport Cooperation [PRAVDA 5 Feb] BB 1
CEMA Engineering Commission Meets in CSSR BB 3

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

PRAVDA Reviews Detente Prospects, U.S. Policies [Ovchinnikov, 17 Feb] CC 1
Waldheim Announces Formation of Commission on Iran CC 4
Moscow Persian Commentary CC 5
Zorin to UN Rights Body: West Supports S. Africa CC 6
Novikov, Promyslov Address IOC in Lake Placid [PRAVDA 13 Feb] CC 6

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Warning of Consequences of 'Anti-Detente', New Arms Race [Yakovlev] A 1
Correspondent Alleges Continuing Work on Neutron Bomb [Mikhaylov in PRAVDA 17 Feb] A 3
Starushenko: U.S., Not USSR, Violates International Law [PRAVDA 15 Feb] A 4
Anichkin Views U.S. Policy Toward Mideast, Afghanistan A 6
Impact of 'Carter Doctrin' on Developmenting Countries [Kudryavtsev in IZVESTIYA 15 Feb] A 9
Increasing Police 'Repression' Against Iranian Students [Levchenko] A 12
CIA Trying To Destabilize Rhodesian Situation [Kulik] A 13
Comment on Trudeau Victory in Canada [Kornikov] A 14

CHINA

Korionov Hits PRC Actions Against Vietnam, U.S. Role [PRAVDA 16 Feb] B 1
Veterans of PRC Aid Programs Feted in Moscow [IZVESTIYA 14 Feb] B 3

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan's Anti-Sovietism Could 'Seriously Damage' Relations [Demchenko in IZVESTIYA 16 Feb] C 1

SOUTH ASIA

Afghan Foreign Minister Denies Country Threatens Others D 1
Afghan Schools Preparing for New Academic Year D 1
Afghan Government Protests State of Union Message D 1
[PRAVDA 15 Feb]
Afghan Moves To Strengthen Support for Authorities Reported D 3
[Demchenko, Mironov in PRAVDA 18 Feb]
London TIMES Reporter Refutes VOA Story of Kabul Fighting D 4
[Skosyrev in IZVESTIYA 15 Feb]
Afghan Students in USSR Refute London TIMES Allegations D 5
Afghan Trade Workers Complete Study Tour of Uzbekistan D 6
[PRAVDA VOSTOKA 6 Feb]
PRAVDA Cites Pakistan TU Body's Support for Afghan Regime D 6
[Baykov in PRAVDA 15 Feb]
Pakistan Role in Afghanistan Tension Reviewed D 7
[Alganov in NOVOYE VREMYA 8 Feb]
Arkhipov-Led Delegation Leaves Moscow for Delhi Celebrations D 9

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Aliyev Hosts Reception for Heng Samrin Delegation E 1
[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 10 Feb]
Chernenko Receives Vietnam's Vo Nguyen Giap E 2
Australia Lifts Ban on Mineral Exports to USSR E 2
[PRAVDA 14 Feb]

EASTERN EUROPE

Further Reportage on GDR Foreign Minister's Visit F 1
Talks, Luncheon F 1
Fischer Interview F 1
'Continuation of Peace Offensive' F 2
Television Protocol with GDR Signed in Moscow F 3
TANJUG Cited: Tito's Condition Unchanged F 3
Husak Greets Brezhnev While Overflying USSR F 3
En Route to Indochina F 3
[PRAVDA 12 Feb]
En Route Home F 3

WESTERN EUROPE

Glazunov Comments on Vance Visit, EEC-U.S. Relations G 1
EEC Call for Afghan Neutrality 'Absolutely Unacceptable' G 1
Europarliament Reactionaries Interfere in Bloc States' Affairs G 2
[Kharlanov in PRAVDA 18 Feb]
NATO Activity in Norway Threatens North Europe G 3
[Kuznetsov in PRAVDA 17 Feb]
NATO Pressures Sweden for Closer Ties G 3
[Kuznetsov]
Wenjin Visit to Spain Draws Criticism G 4
[Kamynin in IZVESTIYA 14 Feb]
New Ambassador to Italy Appointed G 4

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Iran Sentences Two Police Officers to Death H 1
Iran Officially Accepts Waldheim Commission Plan H 1
Bani-Sadr Thanks Brezhnev for Anniversary Congratulations H 1
Soviet Specialists Aid Iranians in Flood-Stricken Khuzestan H 2
[Akhmedzyanov in IZVESTIYA 16 Feb]
Syrian Foreign Minister Views Iran, Afghanistan, Lebanon H 2
[PRAVDA 17 Feb]
Omani Diplomat's Statement on Soviet Threat Scored H 3
[IZVESTIYA 15 Feb]
Visiting Algerian Air Chief Leaves Moscow H 3
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Feb]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Gambia Making Progress in Economic Development J 1
[Mikhaylov]
Maritime Shipping Agreement Signed With Seychelles J 1

LATIN AMERICA & CARRIBEAN

Central Committee Greets Panamanian CP Congress K 1
[PRAVDA 10 Feb]
Cuban, Soviet Broadcast Organizations Sign Protocol K 1

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

PRAVDA Reports Gromyko's 18 Feb Election Speech [19 Feb] R 1
Additions to PRAVDA Version of Gromyko Election Speech R 7
[IZVESTIYA 19 Feb]
Leaders Cite Foreign Policy Issues in Election Speeches R 7
Shcherbitskiy Comments R 7
Chernenko Criticism of U.S. R 8
Kunayev: Carter To Blame R 9
Suslov: USSR Strengthening Defense R 10
CPSU, Government Officials Attend VUZ Conference in Moscow R 12
[PRAVDA 9 Feb]
Interior Minister Addresses Moscow Law, Order Conference R 12
[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 2 Feb]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Republican Socialist Pledges for 1980 in Energy, Agriculture S 1

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Raduga Communications Satellite Launched 20 February U 1
Official Describes Telecommunications Satellite System U 1

CEMA DEPUTY SECRETARY SZOPA ON TRANSPORT COOPERATION

LD201149 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Article by J. Szopa, CEMA deputy secretary under the rubric "CEMA: Targets, Questing and Problems": "Transport--a General Concern"]

[Text] The importance of transport is steadily increasing owing to the dynamic development of the CEMA members' national economies, the deepening of cooperation in the physical production sphere, the rapid growth rate of foreign trade and also of tourist and cultural exchanges. Without a broad and efficiently operating transport network it is impossible to insure deep and stable economic ties between the states of our community.

Freight turnover by all types of transport in the fraternal countries in 1978 was in excess of 6.7 trillion ton-kilometers, which is 8.4 times the figure for 1950. The volume of freight shipments reached 15 billion tons--a 9.3-fold increase over the same period. Freight and passenger traffic between CEMA members also increased during those years, more than 9-fold and more than 10-fold, respectively.

While developing national communications the fraternal countries also pay particular attention to mutual communications. A great deal has been done in a very short space of time to develop international railroad lines and highways, border stations, sea and river ports and airports. The Friendship main oil pipeline; a number of international gas pipelines, including the Soyuz pipeline; the Friendship bridge across the Danube; the sea ferry between Ilichevsk (USSR) and Varna (Bulgaria); and the 1,520-mm gage railroad line between Uzhgorod (USSR) and Kosice (Czechoslovakia) were all built by the joint efforts of the states concerned. A main railroad line, again with a 1,520-millimeter gage, between Vladimir-Volynskiy (USSR) and Katowice (Poland), which will make it possible to deliver, without transshipment, ore from the USSR to the new Katowice metallurgical plant and Polish goods being exported to the Soviet Union, was commissioned ahead of schedule. The creation of a ramified system of transport communications is one of the significant successes achieved during the 30 years of CEMA activity.

However at times international shipments are carried out under strain. What is the reason for this? The trouble is that the increase in many lines' throughput capacity is not keeping pace with the requirements for the growth of freight turnover and passenger traffic. And the prospect of a new considerable increase in shipments between CEMA members of approximately one-third by 1990 lies ahead. The freight structure is also changing substantially and in particular there is an increasing proportion of machines and equipment chemical, perishable and heavy freight and outsize loads. All this makes the transport problem quite acute.

The long-term targeted cooperation program for the development of the CEMA countries' transport links approved at the 33rd sitting of the council session is required to make a decisive contribution to solving the problem.

This program's main aim is to meet the economically valid requirements of fraternal states with respect to reciprocal freight shipments and passenger traffic. This will be achieved by means of the further mutually coordinated development of the transport systems and their increasingly close interaction on the basis of sophisticated technical resources and progressive techniques. The need for coordination with third countries is also taken into account.

The long-term targeted cooperation program includes fundamental provisions and subprograms on specific problems and projects.

A highly efficient system of transport links between the CEMA countries can only be created if the efforts of each of the fraternal countries and their collective actions are combined.

The long-term targeted cooperation program determines the most important avenues of cooperation embracing all modes of transport; it formulates tasks relating to the improvement of the planning, economic and legal principles of cooperation. It envisages the broad participation of the economically less-developed countries in the measures of the long-term targeted cooperation program with a view to promoting the development of their transport ties and the accelerated assimilation of the achievements of modern science and technology.

In the sphere of railroad transport, which occupies a leading place in carrying out shipments between the CEMA countries, it is envisaged that efforts will be concentrated on increasing the throughput capacities of 14 east-west main lines and 4 north-south main lines. The states concerned signed an "Agreement on the Modernization and Technical Reequipping of International Railroad Lines" during the 33d sitting of the CEMA session which defines schedules and volumes of work on each of the main lines mentioned. Agreement was also reached between the governments of Hungary and the USSR, and between the USSR and the CSSR, on the development of their railroad border crossings.

Cooperation on seas and rivers encompasses above all international shipments in the Black Sea-Danube zone. While the long-term targeted cooperation program was still being prepared Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, as is known, set up the Ilichevsk-Varna ferry service. The further development of this ferry link is one of the long-term program's tasks. Bulgaria and the USSR have also created the Intermorput company to conduct dredging, rescue and other work in the Black Sea. The GDR and Poland are planning similar cooperation in the Baltic.

The Bulgarian, Hungarian, USSR and CSSR governments have set up the Interlikhter international economic shipping enterprise to use lighters to transport freight along the Danube to the sea and back. An effecient system is being created for traffic management and the handling of freight haulage [obrakotka tyagi i tonnazha] on the Danube taking account of the experience of the Soviet-Bulgarian Dunaytrans company.

In the motor vehicle transport sphere the long-term targeted cooperation program reflects above all the pooling of efforts essential for increasing the throughput capacity of roads in four directions; Berlin-Warsaw-Moscow, Moscow-Kiev-Kishinev-Bucharest-Sofia, Rostock-Berlin-Prague-Bratislava-Budapest-Bucharest-Constanta, and Gdansk-Warsaw-Katowice-Bratislava-Budapest-Bucharest-Sofia. Other international routes are also being developed. Measures are also planned for the organization of the joint operation of individual motor vehicle transport routes and the opening of new regular bus routes connecting different countries.

During the 33d CEMA session the interested countries concluded a number of multilateral agreements on the majority of measures in the air transport sphere envisaged by the long-term targeted cooperation program. Thus it is envisaged to resolve on a joint basis questions of creating, producing and introducing facilities and mechanizing and automating operating procedures at international airports. Joint operation is intended to insure the more efficient utilization of transport facilities on individual international air routes. It is proposed to create and commission an intercoordinated complex of automated systems for seat reservations and ticket sales on international air routes. An accord has been reached on the organization of an international scientific experimental center for air traffic management.

It is planned to deepen cooperation in the containerized shipment sphere. In particular there will be wider use of large general-purpose containers and containers for the shipment of chemical and perishable cargoes. It is intended to increase the volume of operations approximately 150 percent by 1985 and 300 percent by 1990. This requires the improvement and increased production of technical facilities in the unified containerized transport system. The CEMA countries have worked out a program for the further development of this unified system for 1981-1990.

The growing shipments of particularly heavy and large equipment for the nuclear power industry, chemistry, metallurgy and heavy machine building have required the fraternal countries to include appropriate measures in the long-term targeted cooperation program.

Scientific and technical cooperation takes a prominent place in the long-term targeted cooperation program. The joint elaboration of 28 major problems concerning mainly the creation of new equipment is envisaged.

An important component in the long-term targeted cooperation program is a special subprogram of cooperation aimed at deepening and extending production specialization and cooperation and creating more sophisticated machinery and equipment in the sphere of railroad, water and road transport and containerized shipments.

A large proportion of the measures included in the program are implemented by a system of multilateral and bilateral agreements. Here the countries' commitments are being taken into account in the course of the coordination of national economic plans for 1981-1985.

Hundreds of specialists have elaborated the long-term targeted cooperation program for the development of transport ties. Valuable experience of cooperation in the spheres of planning activity has been accumulated. The implementation of jointly adopted decisions of great national economic significance is the most important next task.

CEMA ENGINEERING COMMISSION MEETS IN CSSR

LD181228 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The 82d session of the CEMA Standing Commission on Engineering has been held in the Czechoslovak town of Brno. Taking part in the work of the commission were delegations from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Cuba, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. A delegation from Yugoslavia also attended the session.

The commission approved and recommended for signing a number of draft multilateral agreements and proposals on specialization and coproduction in engineering. Agreements on scientific-technical cooperation in shipbuilding and ship engineering and in the production of equipment for monitoring environmental pollution and a program of activities for the coming 5-year period in the coproduction of units, parts and components in individual branches of the engineering industry were approved.

PRAVDA REVIEWS DETENTE PROSPECTS, U.S. POLICIES

LD201015 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "International Review"]

[Text] Deep Roots

The past week was marke by an important event in the life of the socialist community: The Eighth PZPR Congress was held in Warsaw. Representatives of the fraternal parties, including a CPSU delegation headed by M.A. Suslov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in its work. The Polish communists' congress summed up the party's activities in the seventies. Fulfilling the program adopted by the sixth and seventh PZPR congresses, the Polish people have substantially advanced their socialist motherland in important directions of economic, social and cultural development.

As the congress participants and guests pointed out, the Polish communist forum was meeting at a time when the situation in the world has grown appreciably more complex and when the process of easing tension is being subjected to serious trials. The significance of the socialist community countries' concerted foreign policy increases particularly under these conditions. During periods which have been most alarming to mankind, when the international horizon has been obscured by storm clouds, the community's firm and sensible stand has helped stop fooolhardiness and opened up the prospect of normalization of the situation.

"We cannot accept the idea that the great cause of peace may be wrecked," the PZPR Central Committee Politburo report delivered at the congress by E. Gierek points out. "Mankind must not permit a return to the cold war times. Thanks to detente too much has changed for the better in the life of the peoples."

Recalling the Warsaw Pact states' proposal to convene a conference on the question of military detente and disarmament in Europe, Gierek announced from the congress platform Warsaw's readiness to be the venue for such a meeting. This initiative elicited an approving response from West European countries. As West Germany's DPA agency reports, FRG Foreign Minister Genscher welcomed Gierek's expressed readiness for East-West talks and the idea of convening a disarmament conference in Warsaw.

Life attests that the positive direction in world affairs succinctly expressed in the word "detente" has deep roots and is supported by powerful forces. This policy has every chance of remaining in the future the leading trend in relations among states.

A scheduled session of the Soviet-French mixed commission on scientific, technical and economic cooperation was held in Moscow this week. The state of and prospects for business relations between the two countries were discussed there. Commodity turnover between the USSR and France has trebled over the past 5 years and exceeds R9 billion. The session noted the successful implementation of intergovernmental agreements in the spheres of agriculture, the aviation industry, chemistry, transport and power generation. In the opinion of the newspaper LE MONDE, the very fact of the successful holding of this session in Moscow is of political importance. The Paris newspaper regards the results of Franco-Soviet cooperation over the past 5 years as "very reassuring."

London's THE TIMES carried a dispatch telling of Tokyo's concern over Washington's calls for the rupture of economic ties with Moscow. Japan, the author writes, realizes that it has a far greater need for Soviet resources--gas, oil, coal and timber--than the USSR has for Japanese technology. I would like to add that such a conclusion is quite obvious to business circles not only in Japan.

Leadership--of Whom?

The world press has commented widely on France's refusal to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the "Big Seven," that is, representatives of the leading capitalist states: the United States, Japan, the FRG, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. An attempt was made to peg this meeting to U.S. Secretary of State Vance's trip to Bonn. Paris' refusal, which caused "irritation and alarm" in Washington, has had broad international repercussions. It has become obvious that the course of confrontation with the Soviet Union which U.S. President J. Carter has taken gives rise to serious doubts not only in Paris but also in Bonn; such views are largely shared in Rome and Tokyo.

More and more people are beginning to discern the real reasons behind the sharp turn in American policy and the true aims of the adventurist course set forth by the U.S. President in his January message to Congress. As is clear from the very first lines of that message, the United States intends to "assert its leading role in the world." Whom, then would it like to dominate, and over whom assert its leadership? In this bid for hegemony one can perceive, in particular, the intention to push its allies under and subject them more fully to its diktat and to prevent the correlation of economic might, which is changing in their favor, from depriving the United States of its leading role in the capitalist world. Washington believes, as can be seen, that it is easier to keep its junior partners on a tight rein in an atmosphere of East-West confrontation. For example, the American first-strike nuclear-missile potential has been foisted on West European countries, in particular, in order to increase their military and political dependence on the United States and to doom them to the fate of hostages whose destiny would be controlled by Washington.

U.S. allies have recently been feeling increasingly frequent American pressure. First the United States demands that Japan and West Europe join in economic sanctions against Iran (and then does not even consider it necessary to inform them that the application of these sanctions has been "postponed indefinitely" in connection with Washington's calculations aimed at creating discord in the Iranian leadership); now it attempts to make its partners accomplices in splitting the international Olympic movement.

But let us return to the plans for a gathering of the "Big Seven's" foreign ministers in Bonn. What was the proposed purpose of that meeting, which was wrecked by France's refusal to participate in it? The United States makes no secret of this. "Vance is bound for Bonn," the New York DAILY NEWS writes, "to discuss a plan according to which West Germany will expand its military efforts in the North Atlantic and in West Europe so that the American Armed Forces can be concentrated in the Persian Gulf region."

A flood of articles rehashing a common leitmotiv has poured forth onto the pages of the American press these days. Since, it is said, the United States has proclaimed its readiness to defend its interests in the Persian Gulf by force of arms, it needs to create a strong military strike force in the vicinity. So, West Europe and Japan, which are still more dependent on Near East oil than the United States is, should take it on themselves to fill the breaches which are being formed because of this regrouping of forces. For example, Britain, France, Italy and the FRG should increase their military presence in the Mediterranean so that the United States can send more ships of the 6th Fleet to the Persian Gulf. [paragraph continues]

Owing to the fact that two 7th Fleet aircraft carriers have been moved to the Indian Ocean, for the first time there is not a single American aircraft carrier left patrolling the Japanese Islands. Why should not Japan, which spends far less than the United States on military needs--the Washington POST recalls in irritation--build for the American fleet a couple of aircraft carriers which would serve primarily off the Japanese Islands?

Calls to "share the burden" are being made in all ways. The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR interprets them even as a policy of total military integration. Citing the Pentagon's opinion, it advocates the total pooling of the allies' military resources and their creation of a "common market: for the most important sectors of the military industry. It is not hard to see that such designs conceal a desire not only to draw the allies deeper into the global U.S. military-political strategy but also to subject them more fully to the American diktat.

Rebuff to Neocolonialism

The joint communique on the talks between the CPSU and Ba'th Party delegations was published this week. On behalf of their parties and on behalf of the Soviet and Syrian peoples the participants in the talks condemned the expansionist policy of American imperialism. They pointed out that by disseminating slander about the Soviet Union and mounting an artificial ballyhoo about the events in Iran and Afghanistan imperialism and its accomplices are seeking to isolate Arab and other struggling peoples from their natural allies and to divert the attention of Arabs and all Muslims from the capitulatory Camp David agreements and from the neocolonialist threat to developing countries.

No camouflage can hide the neocolonialist essence of the "Carter doctrine" and its thrust against the national liberation movement and against developing states. Its grasping claims to other people's natural riches are laid bare even more than ever before. Whereas in the times of the "Truman doctrine" there was talk of some historic U.S. mission from moralist positions, as it were, now Washington perfers to appeal not to lofty concerns but to the self-seeking interests of the man in the street. The United States, it is said, should be an international policeman not out of duty but out of necessity. Above all it is necessary to take up the policeman's billy club not to defend someone's freedom and democracy but because otherwise the "U.S. national interest" will suffer.

The claims to a leading role in the world are preached on the basis of an imperialist interpretation of this concept. For example, with the blessing of the ruling circles the American oil concerns have deliberately adopted a policy of conserving home stocks and increasing imports of liquid fuel from abroad. The United States has begun importing more than 40 percent of the oil it needs. Now this very fact is being used to substantiate some kind of U.S. "right" to insure its positions in the Persian Gulf region by force of arms.

With such logic it is possible to declare anything you like a "sphere of vital U.S. interests." For the claims to other people's natural riches are not confined to "black gold." The magazine BUSINESS WEEK openly writes that the activation of a cold war is dictating changes connected not only with the Near East (in the sphere of oil) but also with southern Africa (in the sphere of minerals). With regard to chromium, for example, the United States is 80-percent dependent on exports from the Republic of South Africa.

This week the U.S. President announced his decision to move into the Arabian Sea area a 7th Fleet tactical landing group with a marines subunit on board. The French newspaper LE MATIN draws attention to the fact that marines are being sent there immediately after Washington has reached agreement with Oman, Somalia and Kenya on access to their military bases.

The true essence of the Camp David compact appears particularly striking against the background of such actions and against the background of Washington's attempts to make of itself a benefactor and defender of the Muslim world. Let us recall that Egypt was promised that Israel would leave the Sinai Peninsula to make up for the betrayal of pan-Arab interests. But the dispute over ownership of the Sinai, as can now be seen, is being resolved to the advantage, above all, of the intermediary in this deal. The Pentagon intends to use for its own needs the military installations in the Sinai which are being transferred to Egypt, as well as the new replacement airbases which the United States is constructing for Israel under the Camp David agreements.

On reconciliation both Israel and Egypt received billion-dollar military handouts because these countries are allocated the role of one of the supports to grip the capitalist world's chief oil reservoir in a vise. The significance of the Camp David deal has increased still more for Washington since the Iranian revolution. While strengthening this support, they have begun hurriedly seeking another one. The choice, by all accounts, has fallen on Pakistan. They are hastening to stuff it with weapons for use in the military intervention against Afghanistan and, in the long term, to make it serve the same old goal: relying on Tel Aviv and Cairo on the one hand and on Islamabad on the other, to take the Persian Gulf basin in a pincer movement so as to dominate the Near East oilfields.

An important event last week was the official visit to India by A. A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister. The talks and negotiations in Delhi touched on international problems, including events in and around the region. During the visit the Soviet side pointed out that such U.S. actions as its crude pressure on Iran--a U.S. Navy armada has been moved up close to its shores--as the use of Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean as a base for the interventionist "quick reaction corps" and as the attempts to turn Pakistan into a bridgehead to launch further aggression against Afghanistan pose a threat to the independence and autonomy of the peoples of the Near and Middle East and South Asia. It was emphasized that, if Pakistan continues along this road, it will gain nothing good but will merely undermine its position as an independent state.

The results of the talks in Delhi confirmed the determination of both sides to strengthen and develop bilateral relations on the sound basis of the Soviet-Indian peace, friendship and cooperation treaty. They showed that relations between the USSR and India have become an important factor insuring peace and stability not only in South Asia but also beyond it.

The past week's events graphically attest how responsibly the Soviet Union approaches international affairs and its world role. As is clear from its foreign policy actions and from the Soviet leaders' election speeches, the USSR advocates continuing talks and reaching agreements on all key questions of modern international relations. We do not wish to forgo any of the good things achieved in the seventies. What is more, we consider it necessary to advance. This applies to curbing the arms race, to liquidating conflict situations in Southeast Asia and in the Near and Middle East and to turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

WALDHEIM ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF COMMISSION ON IRAN

LD201941 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 20, TASS--United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim officially announced here the forming of an international commission which is "to hear Iran's grievances and to allow an early solution of the crisis between Iran and the United States".

The commission includes representatives of Algeria, Venezuela, Syria, France and Sri Lanka. The Iranian authorities demanded that a commission be formed to investigate the crimes of the shah's regime as one of the preliminary conditions for the release of U.S. hostages kept in the United States Embassy in Tehran. It is absolutely obvious that such an investigation will deal with the United States complicity in the crimes of the shah's regime which was imposed on the Iranian people as a result of a coup prepared by the CIA. Kurt Waldheim announced that the commission is to leave Geneva for Tehran this weekend.

Moscow Persian Commentary

NC201925 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The attention of the world press is now turned to the upcoming mission of the international commission to study Iran's just demands regarding the deposed shah and the wealth which he has plundered. Representatives of Algeria, Syria, Venezuela, France and Sri Lanka are members of this commission. The question is how this commission will proceed and what methods it will follow.

The Iranian side states that the matter is not limited to Iran's just demands against the deposed shah and the wealth which he has plundered. As Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the Iranian president, has stated, the deposed shah's policy cannot be considered independently from American policy on Iran. He said: The commission's objective is to study the points of cooperation between the shah's regime and the United States.

But the United States is using different means to oppose this. This is fully understandable, since the U.S. does not want to admit its heavy responsibility during its long and rough intervention in Iran's affairs and the numerous calamities which the Iranians endured as a result of this intervention. It is also understandable since the United States does not want to stop intervening in Iran's domestic affairs. U.S. officials are trying to omit all these vital issues from the topics of discussion. President Carter brought this matter up some time ago. During a meeting with American newspaper editors, Carter said: I do not consider it appropriate to discuss the last 35 years of Iranian history. There have also been reports that U.S. officials are now holding talks with the Panamanian Government and want a guarantee that Panama will not extradite the deposed shah of Iran, either at the request of Iran or anybody else. Washington has reached agreement with Stroessner's dictatorial regime in case an extraordinary situation arises.

Under these circumstances, the work of the international commission formed to study Iran's just demands on the extradition of the deposed shah for trial and the return of wealth plundered by him take on special importance and significance. There is no doubt that the membership of the representatives of Algeria and Syria--who have undertaken a basic and decisive policy in the evaluation of the prevailing situation in the Near and Middle East--in this commission is important for Iran. This (?is fully proven by) the fact that Algeria and Syria have opposed and still oppose with complete decisiveness, U.S. efforts to use the Afghanistan developments to escalate its military presence in the Middle East and Persian Gulf--a danger both for Iran and for the Arab countries. Algeria and Syria seriously oppose the efforts by the American officials to impose their domination on Iran. These two Arab countries support the solidarity of the Arabs and Iran in the struggle against the policy of imperialism and aggression in the Near East and for the guaranteeing of the just rights of the nations of this region.

ZORIN TO UN RIGHTS BODY: WEST SUPPORTS S. AFRICA

LD202222 Moscow TASS in English 2201 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 20, TASS--It is essential to wage most resolute struggle against racism and achieve its full eradication. Racism and racial discrimination run counter to the elementary norms of human contacts and international law, Valerian Zorin, representative of the USSR said today speaking at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. He pointed out that racism and apartheid in Africa's south serve for the preservation of the white minority rule. At the same time apartheid creates favourable conditions for the gaining of huge profits by transnational corporations which exploit the richest natural resources of that part of the world.

The existence of the racist regimes in Africa's south is of benefit to certain circles in the West, the speaker went on to say. Where it not for the military, economic and technical aid from those circles, such regimes would not have held out for long. Touching upon the Republic of South Africa's militarisation which is being effected with the help of the USA, Britain and some other countries, the Soviet representative said that the recent detonation of a nuclear device in the Republic of South Africa, which aroused a great concern of independent African states, is also the result of the lavish aid from the West first of all from NATO countries and Israel. In recent years the number of the Armed Forces of the Republic of South Africa has trebled and is now a quarter of a million. The military appropriations of the Republic of South Africa exceeded 2,000 million dollars.

The speaker pointed out that the British and Rhodesian authorities seek to prevent a transfer of power in Zimbabwe to the Patriotic Front, go to a direct violation of the provisions of the London agreement, and nurture plans to install in power the racists' puppet-Muzorewa. Having pointed out that the racists practise a cruel terror with regard to indigenous population in order to keep their dominance, the USSR representative emphasized that the constantly growing intensity of the national-liberation movement and the emancipatory struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and the Republic of South Africa continuously hasten the collapse of the racist regimes.

NOVIKOV, PROMYSLOV ADDRESS IOC IN LAKE PLACID

LD191605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[TASS report: "Session Listens to Moscow"]

[Text] Lake Placid, 12 February--Members of the International Olympic Commission [IOC] at the IOC session taking place in this little American town listened very closely to a report on the progress of preparations for the Moscow Olympiad given by I.T. Novikov, chairman of the Olympiad-80 Organizing Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In his report to the IOC session I.I. Novikov stressed that the Olympiad-80 Organizing Committee is striving to conduct the Olympic games at high athletic, organizational and technical standards in full accordance with the Olympic Charter's rules. "Welcome to the games in Moscow" were the words with which the Olympiad-80 Organizing Committee chairman concluded his speech at the session, which was received by the IOC members with great satisfaction. The IOC session was also addressed by V.F. Promyslov, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom, who stated that Muscovites would give the warmest welcome to all.

WARNING OF CONSEQUENCES OF 'ANTI-DETENTE', NEW ARMS RACE

Moscow NOVOSTI DAILY REVIEW in English 5 Feb p 1 WA

[Text] In his State of the Union Message to Congress the U.S. President declared: "The relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union is the most critical factor in determining whether the world will live in peace or be engulfed in global conflict." Commenting on this remark, Professor Nikolay Yakovlev, a well-known Soviet scholar and an expert on the history of Soviet-American relations, described it as "absolutely correct". But the question arises, he told Vladimir Arsentyev of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, on what basis is the President going to build relations with the Soviet Union? Does he take fully into consideration the experience of his predecessors at the presidential post, as well as his own?

Military buildup, a preparedness to pay any price to "remain the strongest of all nations" is announced as the primary aim of the United States for the 1980s. All the practical measures set out in the message leaves no doubt as to Washington's striving to break the existing approximate balance of forces between the USSR and the USA and to achieve an American military superiority.

"Carter is not original," declared the Soviet scholar. "This aim was the lodestar of six postwar U.S. presidents before him--with greater or lesser persistency, they all sought to create an overwhelming supremacy over the Soviet Union through serious efforts in the most diverse fields."

Thus, Washington systematically intensified the arms race, and tried military adventures, with over 20,000 American lives lost in Korea and 50,000--in Vietnam. Millions of Koreans and Vietnamese were killed in these wars. There are now about 400 American war bases scattered all over the world. And all this in the name of "containing" communism, or more precisely--the USSR. The result: for many years the White House and Pentagon strategists have imposed new types of strategic arms under various aritificial pretexts, which nevertheless do not give the desired superiority in power or, as they assert, a "substantive equality".

In Eisenhower's day the "U.S. strategic bomber lag" story was launched to get large appropriations from Congress to overcome it; but when they got them, military circles admitted that the number of American bombers had actually been three or four times higher than that of the Soviets. It is said that John Kennedy won the election battle for the White House by putting forward a "missile gap" thesis. Later Kennedy confessed that the "missile threat" had been exaggerated by 30 times. But the buildup of missiles began in the United States and the USSR, naturally, had to unfold its own programs of national defence.

Nixon's administration, unable to resist the illusory prospect of gaining "trump cards" at the negotiations, insisted on the further deployment of the MIRV system. A few years later Henry Kissinger was also forced to admit that in 1969 he should have better thought over the consequences of a MIRV-olized globe because the Russians had mastered this technology and tipped their large missiles with multiple warheads. As a result, he said, the United States found itself in lesser security than in 1970.

Ford, who had declared himself a successor to the policy of detente, gave in to the right-wingers' pressure and sent--in two years of his Presidency--military expenditures soaring from 73.7 billion to 113 billion dollars. As a result, the development of Soviet-American relations was slowed down and Ford ceased to be the President.

In attempting to impose confrontation on the Soviet Union, the top echelons of anti-communism always seem to fail to take its retaliatory moves into consideration, forgetting that the principle "action-counteraction" invariably works in this case.

Intellectual blindness or deliberate distortion of the real balance of forces in the world have caused many mistakes and setbacks in the US policy. A number of National Security Council studies recently taken off the secret list indicate that in the latter half of the fifties the American leaders came to realize at last that any military action against the Soviet Union, involving the use of nuclear weapons, was unrealistic, since "there will be no winners in such a war."

That was the reason why the US policy of coercion was later based on the "harassment" tactics which, according to George Kennan, the architect of the doctrine of "containment," would cause the Soviet Union to "collapse" under pressure from outside in 10 or 15 years. Kennan said this in 1947. Ten years later the first Soviet sputnik dashed all hopes for the economic collapse of the USSR, and Kennan admitted his miscalculation. There are many other examples testifying to the futility of such a policy.

Nevertheless, ignoring the lessons of history and his own bitter experiences, President Carter is now proclaiming the same doctrines arranged accordingly by his National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. In so doing, he uses all sorts of instruments of intimidation against the Soviet Union, ranging from missiles to the enforcement of restrictions on economic cooperation with the USSR.

President Carter's speculation about the development of new strategic weapons systems is obviously intended for the nervous. Washington is well aware of the fact that there is a great distance between the replenishment of the arsenals of strategic weapons and their use. How can any politician with a sense of responsibility embrace the policy of escalation of the arms race in the eighties when the modern level of military technology has already brought mankind to the brink of the Armageddon? Does President Carter has any rational objective? It appears that he undertakes such reckless measures and abandons all sense of political reality simply because he wants to remain in the White House at all costs.

President Carter's policy will force the world to live through a difficult time. Aware of this, the Soviet Union nevertheless believes that approximate military parity of the sides is sufficient for the needs of defence. We want neither exaggerate nor underestimate the dangers. The Soviet Union has nothing to gain from the race for supremacy, particularly from the economic point of view, since armaments divert vast resources from the needs of social and economic development. We do not want and, frankly speaking, cannot afford the luxury of sacrificing necessities for superfluities. "Military spending is a heavy and undesirable burden," Professor Yakovlev emphasized.

The Soviet leaders have stated in no vague terms, however, that in the current situation the Soviet Union will do everything to secure its own defences and safeguard the security of its allies. It has the necessary reserves and potentialities for doing so. It is naive for Carter's advisers to think that the Soviet Union can be forced to renounce detente and participate in a new exhausting arms race through the policy of blackmail and pressure.

The attempts to scare the Soviet people had been made before when the United States had monopoly over the A-bomb, when John Foster Dulles played with the doctrine of "liberation" and when the United States evolved the notorious plan of unleashing a war against the USSR codenamed Dropshot. But every time the United States had to make a summing-up only to discover that the debit side of the political balance sheet heavily overweighed the credit side. The lessons of history show that the same thing will inevitably happen again. This time, however, the losses will be commensurate with Mr. Carter's inordinate ambitions.

CORRESPONDENT ALLEGES CONTINUING WORK ON NEUTRON BOMB

LD201323 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[V. Mikhaylov dispatch: "Trick With the Neutron Bomb"]

[Text] Bonn--"The neutron bomb is absolutely essential. It must be here." This cry from the heart by retired Bundeswehr Inspector General Harald Wust was recently disseminated by BILD, a newspaper of the Springer concern, which engages in creating militarist stirs in the FRG. Wust is not alone, and his call, by all accounts, is part of a program of psychological preparation of the West German population for new plans to deploy neutron weapons in West Europe.

To ascertain the truth, the youth magainze ELAN approached Robert Carr, member of the House Armed Services Committee of the U.S. Congress, through the American journalist Fred (Khekert). The journalist's questions were answered by Bob Sherman, the congressman's adviser on military and technical issues.

Question: Are neutron bombs being deployed in the FRG?

Answer: We will have such weapons there. Possible carriers include Lance missiles and 203mm howitzers. The warheads consist of charges which operate like ordinary nuclear ones. For the time being, the neutron components remain in the United States.

Question: Are these neutron components already on hand?

Answer: Yes, they are. It does not take much time to install them in ordinary warheads.

Question: Thus, Carter has not stopped production of the neutron bomb at all?

Answer: The widespread opinion that Carter has halted production of the neutron bomb is false.

This is the testimony of an American Congress Committee expert. ELAN's exposures have not gotten into the big West German press. Why? If they were published, it would become clear that the American and West German representatives were operating with false data at the NATO Council session when they were forcing through the program to turn West Europe into a launch site for medium-range nuclear missiles. U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown and his FRG colleague H. Apel, as well as Bonn Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, used the following argument. The American President, they maintained, has unilaterally abandoned production of neutron weapons. But the Soviet Union has "made no response" to this. Therefore, they declared, we should first adopt a decision to produce and deploy medium-range missiles in West Europe, as it is possible to reach agreement with Moscow on disarmament only "when you yourself have something in your hands."

Who would believe that the U.S. defense secretary and his West German colleagues at the NATO Council's December session did not know the real state of affairs regarding neutron weapons? Consequently, they resorted to deliberate deception of the West German public. But now that they have forced through the program for missile "upgrading" with the help of such a trick, the truth about the plans to produce and deploy neutron weapons in West Europe is surfacing.

STARUSHENKO: U.S., NOT USSR, VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW

LD191647 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Doctor of Juridical Sciences G. Starushenko article: "United States is Violating International Law"]

[Text] The more sharply Washington turns its foreign policy course toward confrontation, military interference and the undermining of the prevailing system of relations between states, the more loudly American politicians and diplomats clamor about international law and the need to observe its norms. To hear them talk, there is today no more reliable "defender" of international law in the world than the United States. In fact this whole clamor conceals a desire to exploit arbitrarily interpreted international legal norms and provisions in order to mount psychological warfare against the socialist and developing countries and provide at least the semblance of justification for the U.S. interventionist actions in various regions of the world.

The present U.S. policy in southwest Asia is characteristic in this respect. It is well known that under the pretext of the detention of a group of American diplomats in Tehran Washington tried to secure from the UN Security Council the adoption of a resolution envisaging the termination of economic ties and transport communications with Iran and the restriction of diplomatic relations.

Of course, the violation of diplomats' immunity and their holding hostage run counter to international norms, including the Vienna convention on diplomatic immunity. However, according to the UN Charter the measures the United States sought to secure can be employed only in the event of a threat to peace, of an act of aggression. The violation of diplomatic immunity is not aggression. "Aggression is the use of a state's armed force against another state's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence," says the definition of aggression approved in 1974 by all UN member states, the United States included.

Measures to prevent violations of international law must not be illegal themselves, still less create a threat to international peace. The unilateral U.S. economic sanctions against Iran not only violate that country's sovereignty but also impede the peaceful solution of the bilateral dispute between those states. The concentration off Iran's shores of a mighty naval formation, ready to strike, is particularly dangerous. These actions, which create a threat to peace, run counter to the UN Charter, which prohibits "the threat or use of force."

The Soviet Union lawfully [pravomerno] prevented the adoption in the security council of the decision on using sanctions against Iran. Approval of the American draft resolution would not only have run counter to the UN Charter but would also have encouraged the United States in its actions creating a threat to peace.

Washington also reacted to the April revolution in Afghanistan in the spirit of the policy of force, camouflaged by international legal phraseology. To hear the American propagandists and politicians speak, the Soviet Unions is guilty of "aggression" and "intervention" in Afghanistan.

However, it is precisely Washington, operating primarily via the CIA, that has taken and is taking an active part in the subversive activity against the Afghan revolution. An undeclared war was started against Afghanistan with the participation of tens of thousands of rebels and mercenaries trained and armed by the United States and China and moved across the border. Operations of this sort are an extremely crude violation of international law. According to the document defining the concept of aggression quoted above, "the sending by a state or on a state' behalf of armed gangs, groups, irregular forces or mercenaries that carry out acts using armed force against another state..." is also aggression.

The Afghan state has been the victim of aggression. In order to be able to resist it, Afghanistan repeatedly turned to the Soviet Union for assistance, in accordance with the 1978 friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation treaty. In doing so Afghanistan was exercising the right, provided for by Article 51 of the UN Charter, to collective self-defense, or in other words to obtain any assistance, including military assistance, from another state.

According to contemporary international law, if any state is subjected to armed attack other states are entitled--or, if they are connected with it by a joint defense agreement, obliged--to offer it the necessary assistance. In assisting Afghanistan to repulse external aggression the Soviet Union was acting in accordance with the universally acknowledged principles of international relations, including on the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter and Article 4 of the friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation treaty with that country.

The right to evaluate the nature of an attack belongs to the state subjected to it. The people who claim the reverse are placing themselves in an absurd position. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's sole government, which alone can represent the state in the international arena, authoritatively declares that the limited Soviet troop contingent is helping to repel an external aggression, while people across the ocean claim that this assistance actually is an act of "aggression."

Washington is now trying the exploit the UN resolution on the "Afghan issue," which is consultative, as a mandate to intervene in Afghanistan and stifle the national democratic revolution. With the aim of exporting counterrevolution the United States is trying to knock together a new "Holy Alliance" and to enlist in it China, Egypt, Israel and certain other states with reactionary regimes, is recruiting and arming mercenaries and is generously financing the reactionary Afghan rabble that has fled the country.

Thus, as the statement of the Soviet International Law Association's annual meeting says, "The sum total of the American administration's moves over events in Afghanistan--the use of a number of major UN organs for its own narrowly self-seeking reactionary purposes, the violation of numerous international treaties [dogovory] between the USSR and the United States in various spheres, Washington's arbitrary arrogation to itself of some sort of 'right' to 'punish' independent sovereign states--shows that by these actions the U.S. administration is striking a blow against the regulated international legal system of relations between states in general."

The U.S. policy in southwest Asia is a manifestation of Washington's foreign policy course of military interference in other countries' internal affairs, especially those of developing countries. The United States is trying to suppress revolutions and prevent the peoples from securing changes in the sociopolitical structure in their countries. This is also the source of the present campaign of blackmail and threats against revolutionary Iran. As TIME magazine has written, America "is prepared to impress its strength upon both Iran and others in the Third World who may follow Khomeyni's example and stir up revolt."

Washington's campaign against revolutions and national liberation movements, mounted for the sake of preserving U.S. strategic, political and economic interests, shows graphically just how absurd are Washington's aspirations to the role of custodian of international law. International law recognizes all peoples as having the right to revolutionary transformations. [paragraph continues]

"On the basis of the principles of equality and the peoples' right to be masters of their own destiny, all peoples always have the right in complete freedom to determine, as and when they wish, their own internal and external political status without external interference and to implement their political, economic, social and cultural development at their own discretion," says the all-European conference Final Act, which also bears the U.S. signature.

As for the Soviet Union, our country firmly steers the course of peace, detente and disarmament, of repelling imperialist aggression and of assisting national liberation movements and states that have found themselves the victims of imperialist interference. "The colonialist policy and mentality are alien to us," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said in answer to a PRAVDA correspondent's questions. "We do not covet foreign lands; we do not yearn for foreign wealth. It is the colonialists who are drawn by the smell of oil."

Imperialist interference and Washington's power politics are the main source of violations of international law and of the universally acknowledged principles and norms of international relations. No propaganda endeavors by Washington will succeed in hiding that fact from the peoples.

ANICHKIN VIEWS U.S. POLICY TOWARD MIDEAST, AFGHANISTAN

LD191652 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1140 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Commentary by Oleg Nikolayevich Anichkin, international affairs journalist, in the series "Topical Problems of International Life"]

[Text] The latest reports from Washington and the capitals of other Western countries show that the United States is carrying out a rapid and unprecedented buildup of its armed presence in the area of the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea. An extensive military-strategic springboard is being set up in the Near and Middle East according to U.S. schemes, with the aim of exerting influence on events and countries in this region.

Never before has there been such a concentration of U.S. warships in one place as there is now in the Arabian Sea. Up to 25 warships have crowded there, including three aircraft carriers. New contingents of marines have also been dispatched here recently from the United States onboard special amphibious vessels that stop off in the Philippines. The United States is making active efforts in its search for new, permanent bases in a number of Arab countries in the Arabian Peninsula for the deployment of its forces. Such actions have become particularly persistent after the trip made to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia by U.S. Presidential Assistant Brzezinski.

The United States is seeking a haven not only for its aircraft and ships, but also for deploying large units of infantry.

During the recent U.S.-Pakistani talks, the New York TIMES, quoting a member of the U.S. delegation, reported that various plans of action involving U.S. troops were discussed: These plans provide first of all for a single dispatchment of U.S. troops into Pakistan and the temporary use of the naval and air force bases in existence there by U.S. warships and aircraft, with the subsequent consolidation of a U.S. military presence in this country.

At the same time there has been the forced creation of the so-called quick-reaction corps, or the quick-deployment corps as it is also now being called.

It is primarily designed for use in the Near and Middle East for securing, as they say in Washington, the uninterrupted extraction and supply of oil to the United States. Protecting the interests of the oil monopolies in this region, the United States is declaring it a zone of its vital interests. It wants to explain and thereby justify its aggressive actions as a reaction to the events in Iran and Afghanistan.

The United States has now started implementing schemes which it has been planning for a long time. This is borne out, for example, by the Pentagon report entitled "Military Variants in the Persian Gulf," an account of which was recently published by the New York TIMES. Plans for the U.S. seizure of positions in the Persian Gulf necessary to it, following the instructions of Defense Secretary Brown, were worked out almost 2 years ago as can be seen from the report. Some time earlier, in the so-called memorandum from Brzezinski to the President, the need was stated for the creation of a basis in the Near and Middle East for consultations on security matters, with the aim of confirming U.S. influence and might in this region.

The Washington POST, reporting on the above-mentioned memorandum, notes that there was no mention of Afghanistan. The idea of U.S. armed interference in the Near East appeared considerably earlier: in 1973, during the Egyptian-Israeli war, when the Arab oil-producing countries tried to impose an oil embargo to exert a decisive influence on the United States and other countries which supported the Israeli aggressors. But then it was only sabrerattling. The lessons of Vietnam were still fresh in the memory of Americans. Now it looks as if Washington has decided that America has finally rid itself of the Vietnam syndrome. The U.S. press quoted this statement made by a senator: Judging by appearances, we have been seized by a creeping, chauvinistic fever from which we cannot free our system after Vietnam. We are just asking for a fight.

The New York TIMES noted that even before the holding of U.S. hostages in Tehran and the latest events in Afghanistan, officials in Washington did not conceal the fact that Jimmy Carter's foreign policy was undergoing changes. In which direction? U.S. Presidential Assistant Brzezinski said that the United States had finally rid itself ot its aversion for military spending and possible intervention abroad.

The United States has always set its grasping sights on Afghanistan. This can be explained by the important strategic position of this country in the Middle East--Washington has long dreamed of using Afghan territory against the Soviet Union. The April revolution impeded the implementation of these insidious plans by the United States. And so, almost 2 years ago, there virtually began an undeclared war against the Afghan people.

In July 1978, as the New York TIMES reported, a so-called symposium of the NATO Command devoted to a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan and its consequences for America and its NATO allies was held in the U.S. city of Annapolis in Maryland. At the same time, the CIA was establishing contacts with Afghan counterrevolutionaries entrenched abroad. After the collapse of the shah's regime, the situation in the Middle East seriously altered. And then, the United States and others started talking of carrying out military actions against Afghanistan to turn the course of events in that country to their own advantage. Pakistan was chosen as the main springboard for an undeclared war against Afghanistan. Washington would like to attract other states in this area with all its means and strength to take part in this war so that it does not appear isolated in its aggressive actions against Afghanistan in the eyes of the whole world.

The United States is obviously afraid of a repetition of the Vietnam adventure, when no one--even the closest allies--took its side. It would like to draw the Muslim states, which should play almost a key role in implementing U.S. plans according to Washington's calculations, into its dangerous game. In the same way, it would like to distract the attention of the Arab countries from their struggle against their main enemy, Israel, which is currently concluding a separate deal with As-Sadat.

The United States did not have to persuade Beijing to join in with its actions against Afghanistan. Beijing has a particular interest in Afghanistan. The present-day Chinese mandarins included the eastern areas of Afghanistan in their list of so-called lost Chinese territories long ago. Their appetites flared up with new force after the April revolution. Beijing made its calculations taking the activity of pro-Maoist groups in particular into account. Afghan Maoists unleashed active antigovernment propaganda and then turned to open terrorism, sabotage and subversion against the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The United States adopted a course of extending its military interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. U.S. military aid to Pakistan will really go--and this is not concealed by anyone--toward training interventionist forces alined on Pakistani territory near the Afghan border. As-Sadat has displayed his readiness to take part in the new U.S. adventure. Saudi Arabia intends to pay the bill for the supply of weapons to mercenaries and their training by American and Chinese advisers.

It is quite obvious that an act of external aggression prepared and organized by the United States is being carried out against Afghanistan. An undeclared war is being waged by counterrevolutionary, terrorist, subversive and mercenary forces. Precisely that form of aggression, which is defined in the UN Charter, is being carried out: the dispatch by a state, or on behalf of a state, of armed bands, groups and regular forces or mercenaries which carry out acts of armed force against another state.

The United States is not worried a great deal by the uneasiness of neighboring countries which see a big threat in its militaristic plans. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in her first speech in parliament after the elections, spoke bluntly of the anxiety of the Indian Government: We would not like to have a one-sided view of the situation in this region. A buildup of military power in the Indian Ocean is taking place; a whole armada of naval vessels is in the Arabian Sea; Pakistan is being turned into a military base; the United States is providing Pakistan with military assistance amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

This anxiety of India is fully justified taking into account that quite recently it had to face two serious military conflicts with Pakistan.

Recently, the same question has been asked more and more frequently everywhere, including in the United States: Do the actions of the U.S. administration correspond to the situation that has come about in the Middle East, in Afghanistan in particular? Are not the Afghan events only a pretext for pursuing a previously conceived policy?

The eminent U.S. historian and former diplomat, Kennan, supplies the answers to these questions. He said in an article published a few days ago in the New York TIMES:

It is obvious that the official U.S. interpretation of what happened in Afghanistan did not take into account such important specific factors as geographical proximity, the ethnic similarity of the peoples on both sides of the border and the political instability in a country which borders the Soviet Union. He noted that during debates in Washington, what dominates is talk about the United States acquiring bases and military installations, the creation of quick-reaction forces and the strengthening of military ties with other countries, and all this on such an important border of Russia--the southern. In such circumstances anything can happen. The opinion about the incentives and motives of the Russians is so far based exclusively on our own premises. Kennan said he did not know of anything that would confirm such a supposition and he stressed that not since the end of World War II has there been such a far-reaching militarization of thinking in Washington.

But do not we, Kennan continued, being so absorbed by the Soviet military threat--and its reality must be proved--risk forgetting that the greatest real threats to our security in this region remain precisely those threats which have existed all the time : dependence on Arab oil, which we created throughour own doing, and our interference in the absolutely unstable Israeli-Arab relationship?

If it wants to promote the guaranteeing of peace in the Near and Middle East through deeds and not words, the United States must cease attempts aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and in Soviet-Afghan relations. If there was ever a moment for displaying realism, care and restraint in governing the United States in the opinion of the same Kennan, then this moment is right now. No passions of the preelection political campaign can be used as even the slightest justification for ignoring this necessity.

Mankind must not allow a return to the times of the cold war. Thanks to detente too much has changed for the better in the life of peoples. There has been a broad development of advantageous economic cooperation and scientific and cultural contacts, and many problems common to humanity have been successfully tackled. The belief of peoples that they can settle their fates on their own has become stronger. The feeling of fear has abated everywhere, hopes have become stronger, and the feeling of security has grown. One must not reconcile oneself to the fact that the great cause of peace, and all the achievements that have been made in securing it, might be wasted in vain.

IMPACT OF 'CARTER DOCTRINE' ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

LD191309 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[IZVESTIYA political observer V. Kudryavtsev article under the rubric "Imperialism--the Developing Countries' Enemy": "In the Guise of Benefactors"]

[Text] The authors of the so-called "Carter doctrine" make no secret of the fact that the main objective of the U.S. ruling circles' foreign policy is to establish American hegemony over the entire world. The U.S. President's State of the Union Message begins thus: "Since I (that is, J. Carter--V.K.) officially assumed my duties in January 3 years ago, I have emphasized the need for our country to confirm its leading role in the world." [paragraph continues]

Even that sentence indicates that events in Afghanistan are not the reason for the U.S. transition to a policy of confrontation, but only a pretext. Without that pretext, another would have been found.

The doctrine is full of reference to the "Soviet threat" from which U.S. ruling circles are planning to save the rest of the world. However, in the meantime the doctrine is in practice spearheaded against the developing countries, which Washington, according to its statements, also intends to save from the "Soviet danger." This salvation is envisaged above all in political terms, and in the West in military terms. To this end American propaganda seeks to discredit the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries in the developing countries' eyes so as to deprive the awakened peoples of their objective ally. At the same time they also try to discredit the very ideas of socialism--ideas increasingly popular in the developing countries, which are becoming more and more convinced that social and economic liberation cannot be achieved along the path of capitalism.

Since the acquisition of political independence by the colonies and dependent countries, the imperialist powers have been counting firmly on economic neocolonialism, which is carried out mainly through transcontinental monopolies. However, practice has shown that the developing countries do not stop at achieving national independence but struggle for social and economic liberation, which is inconceivable without eliminating the dominance of foreign monopolies in their economies. An admission by Z. Brzezinski, national security adviser to the U.S. President, is very significant in this respect; he stated that "We have not succeeded in establishing more effective control of the world economy. We have achieved less than we planned in resolving the problems of the southern part of Africa...."

The developing countries, as noted above, are increasingly disappointed in the capitalist path of development, and in particular with regard to so-called U.S. "aid." We will not cite a large number of figures, but will refer only to the interesting data published recently by the French journal LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE, on Latin America. It seems that in 10 years--from 1966 to 1976--the total capital inflow to the United States (in the form of dividends, interest, fees and so on) from Latin American countries exceeded the outflow of American capital by $2.5 billion. Here it must be taken into account that a considerable proportion of American capital investment comes not from abroad, but from within Latin America in the form of reinvested profits (more than one-half of all capital investments). And that is in the part of the world which is most under U.S. tutelage, as they say. It is not surprising that the poor countries are becoming poorer, and the rich richer. Things are the same with respect to other continents touched by the hands of American "benefactors."

What conclusion do the bellicose elements in the U.S. ruling circles draw from this situation? Here is what Z. Brzezinski has to say on this subject: "We are now beginning to realize," he notes, "that we cannot talk about any such thing as simply maintaining the existing situation, if we want American values and the American system to survive." So America supplements, or in some cases replaces economic neocolonialism with the threat of using armed force where this seems necessary.

Hence the extended interpretation of national security not only in territorial terms, but also from the viewpoint of the most blatant hegemonism. "National security means active and positive U.S. participation in the formation of the rapidly changing world so as to insure that it accords with our interests and promotes our values." It is not hard to discover that this interpretation on the part of Z. Brzezinski is the backbone of the President's State of the Union Message, as well as of the U.S. foreign policy course in practice. It means that the U.S. Armed Forces are called on to use force to support or establish governments and regimes which suit the United States in developing countries. And this in turn means that American foreign policy "legitimizes" its own right to interfere in other countries' internal affairs when this seems necessary or convenient to American ruling circles. This stance can only be described as arbitrariness on the part of hegemonists capable of plunging the world into the abyss of a new global war for the sake of their selfish goals.

The assertions contained in the President's message to the effect that the developing countries' desire to strengthen their national independence and economic development is not contrary to "U.S. ideals and interests" lose their force in the light of such statements and practical actions by Washington with respect to Asian, African and Latin American countries. Against the background of events taking place, if only in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East in general, only pitiful leftovers remain of the American carrot. To make up for that, the American stick is becoming increasingly evident and tangible.

For instance, take the Pentagon's practice of declaring any part of the world a "zone of American interests" and even "American security." These zones incorporate mainly the developing countries and their territory. From the example of the Middle East region, including the Persian Gulf, which is declared a "zone of American security," the developing countries can see what open U.S. tutelage has in store for them. This includes bringing into adjacent sea areas large naval forces with thousands of combat planes, targeted on extensive regions and causing the population to live in fear every minute and every hour of the missiles and shells ready to fall on their cities and villages. This deployment of armed forces close to foreign shores is no accidental phenomenon but fits in with the Pentagon's policy of creating military bases, anchorages and dumps for these armed forces. It is known that the United States already maintains about 500,000 servicemen abroad, a significant proportion of whom are in developing countries.

These armed forces, which are always increasing and will increase further through the creation of the "quick reaction forces," are backed up by more than 400 major military bases and more than 2,000 other facilities. In addition the question is raised of creating new bases in Oman, Kenya, Somalia and other countries in the western Indian Ocean. Thus it is again a question of developing countries.

Just as the "zones of American interests" declared by the American administration are interconnected, or rather, one gives rise to another, so too the bases being created or which already exist require in turn, from the Pentagon's viewpoint, "defense zones" which are practically entire developing countries on whose territory U.S. military bases are being created.

Naturally, military bases or the strong points being created for the "quick reaction forces" constitute a restriction on the national sovereignty of a given country and act as U.S. control points for monitoring the domestic political situation, and the least change in that situation which does not suit U.S. military and other interests could serve as a pretext for armed interference (and this does not only apply to developing countries). In a word, the present U.S. policy prepares the ground favorably for armed interference in the internal affairs of any developing country on the pretext of "violation" of American interests and American security.

The more so since, as noted above, U.S. policy as explained by Z. Brzezinski sets the task of promoting the creation in other countries of regimes which will protect American values and observe American interests. Not for nothing did the INDIAN PRESS AGENCY write recently concerning the U.S. President's national security adviser that, "When it is a question of third world countries, he rapidly turns into a real 'hawk!'

Bellicose U.S. circles, trying to wreck the policy of detente, are striving to exacerbate the political climate for the developing countries, which in an atmosphere of thaw could more rapidly and effectively achieve successes in strengthening their national independence and in the struggle for economic independence and social liberation. Examples are not hard to find. They exist in Africa (Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia), Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Iran and Afghanistan) and Latin America (Nicaragua). In an atmosphere of political detente it is harder for imperialist powers' bellicose circles to interfere in other states' internal affairs, and they have fewer opportunities for implementing or threatening to use a policy of armed force. That is why detente, as Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said, is the result of multifaceted efforts, the common gain of peace-loving states. And reckless imperialist forces cannot be permitted to squander its fruits.

INCREASING POLICE 'REPRESSION' AGAINST IRANIAN STUDENTS

LD201608 Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Washington, February 20, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports:

The U.S. authorities are increasing police repressions against progressive Iranian students. Twenty-seven Iranian students have been arrested and imprisoned in Austin (Texas). Their sole "guilt" was that they dared to protest against Washington's continuing patronage of the shah and his accomplices, who found refuge in the USA.

The incident was caused by the decision of the Texas University authorities to allow one of the closest associates of the shah, former Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations Organization Fereydun Hoveyda to deliver a lecture. Representatives of the Iranian student community declared a protest and demanded that they be given the opportunity to speak at Hoveyda's "lecture" in order to expose the inventions of the shah's accomplice and tell the truth about Iran today. The university rectorate, however, rejected this just demand.

Answering the call of the Iranian students, more than one hundred American and Arab students as well as students who came from other countries, staged on the day of the "lecture" a demonstration of protest and put up pickets striving not to allow the accomplice of the shah to enter the university. The authorities made short shrift of the "violators of order" and sent a big police force to disperse the demonstration. Twenty-seven Iranians, who were put in jail, went on a hunger strike in protest against the police arbitrary rule.

"We are indignant at the brutal short shrift of the students," a TASS correspondent was told by head of the committee in defence of Iranian students Selireh Hassan. They became victims of purely political persecution. The authorities are using in the anti-Iranian conspiracy, newspapers, radio and television, which put up a real "wall of silence" around the events at the university. We are, however, resolved to tell the whole world about the outrageous actions by the "human right zealots" in the USA. We will not stop our struggle, until our comrades are released from jail, S. Hassan said.

CIA TRYING TO DESTABILIZE RHODESIA SITUATION

LD160038 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, 15 February, TASS--TASS political observer Sergey Kulik writes:

Ian Smith's visit to the United States is beginning. Commenting on this trip by the former Rhodesian prime minister, many foreign observers agree that it is being undertaken with the aim of finalizing with high-ranking representatives of the American administration the details of the use of the interventionist Republic of South Africa corps to save the neocolonialist Muzorewa regime in the event of victory in the forthcoming elections in Rhodesia by representatives of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Agreement on official Washington's support for the conspiracy of Britain and the Republic of South Africa against an independent Zimbabwe was reached back in December during the meeting between President J. Carter and British Prime Minister M. Thatcher.

Observers in Salisbury admit that Ian Smith is going to appeal to Zbigniew Brzezinski, author of the "over the horizon reaction," doctrine with proof of the need for urgent military intervention in southern Africa "before Rhodesia falls under communist control."

The United States is already engaged on massive interference in the affairs of Rhodesia, directly influencing the course of the election campaign in the country to push it in a direction favorable to Washington. Washington unilaterally and illegally lifted trade sanctions against the illegal Muzorewa-Smith regime. The tactic of isolating and physically annihilating the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and of driving it out of the political arena, which is now being implemented by the British authorities in Rhodesia, was worked out with direct participation of the United States. Some 2,000 American mercenaries take part in punitive operations against the patriots, which are carried out with the agreement of the British governor, Lord Soames. There has been a considerable stepping-up noted of late in the activities of units of the "black devils" bandit grouping headed by Maj (Darrel Winkler).

No small role in carrying out the neocolonialists' sinister plans against Zimbabwe falls to the CIA, which has long been cooperating with Muzorewa. The press reports that President Carter has personally instructed the CIA "number two man," Carlucci, well-known for his "feats" in Angola and Mozambique, to "concentrate on Rhodesia."

Weighing up CIA operations in this British colony, the former head of the U.S. spy agency Helms told journalists: "We have established excellent working relations with our colleagues in Salisbury." CIA agents have, in particular, been given instructions to stir up, during the runup to the elections, tribal conflicts on the lines of the actions which led to the civil war in Nigeria, and to infiltrate progressive organizations so as to split them. U.S. provocateurs are also involved in plans for the physical elimination of leaders of the Patriotic Front.

If one compares the U.S. policy towards Rhodesia with the line being pursued in that country by Britain and the Republic of South Africa, it is not difficult to discern the existence of a broad imperialist conspiracy aimed at keeping out of power in Rhodesia the true representatives of the African majority.

COMMENT ON TRUDEAU VICTORY IN CANADA

LD191140 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] A comment on the elections in Canada by (?Vladimir Kornikov). This is what he writes:

This second election in a year saw a good turnout of voters, unheard of for Canada and against all expectations. Neither snowstorms and freezing weather in the central part of the country, nor the pouring rain in the Maritime Provinces prevented voters from going to the polling stations. The outcome of the election is a crushing defeat for Joe Clark's Conservative Party which was in office for 6 months.

I can't resist the temptation to say, writes (?Vladimir Kornikov). that the Canadians were in a hurry since polling ended in the morning, hours before work started, to put the ruling party in opposition. Everything was unusual at these elections but the main feature of the election campaign was the stress on foreign policy. Joe Clark and his closest aide, External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald, put in the forefront relations with the Soviet Union. Quite unexpectedly there was a foreign policy twist in speeches by outright Conservatives, primarily Flora MacDonald, to the sharp domestic issues such as taxes, inflation and unemployment. For example, someone nicknamed the election struggle the 18-cent campaign, hinting at the extremely unpopular proposal of the Conservatives to introduce an additional levy of 18 cents on a gallon of petrol costing $1, that is to increase the tax by 18 percent. And since there was also an election promise to raise Canada's military spending by 17 percent, simple arithmetic convinced voters that their new financial sacrifices were intended not so much in the social field as for other useful needs. The Canadians apparently didn't like the proposed new military spending.

At the close of the campaign Joe Clark and particularly Flora MacDonald tackled Canadian-Soviet relations with an energy worthy of a better application in order to end all the positive things that were achieved in this field in the past decade. Numerous agreements have been broken off on bilateral exchanges, an embargo has been imposed on grain deliveries to the Soviet Union, which has become a (?drain) to the farmers, and so on. Matters reached a head when the Conservatives firmly declared to be a mistake the desire of the liberal government of Pierre Trudeau that ruled Canada for 11 years before Clark that he would strengthen friendship with the Soviet Union. That policy enjoyed the support of the Conservatives, too, under their former leaders. The Conservatives believed it was in keeping with the interests of Canada.

The final (?call) in the anti-Soviet campaign launched by the Government in Canada was the proposal to move the summer Olympic games from Moscow to Montreal or some other Canadian city. The International Olympic Committee declined to consider the proposal, regarding it as simply not serious, and within a number of Canadian Government agencies the proposal was delicately described as unreal.

The Liberals have made fine use of the numerous mistakes of the Conservative government. They are again headed by Pierre Trudeau. They didn't have to make many promises: He simply enumerated the mistakes of Clark and his team, repeating that Canada cannot afford to have such a government. As a result the Liberals received an absolute majority in Parliament.

In his first speech on the victory Pierre Trudeau declared his policy toward the Soviet Union would be vastly different from the one followed by Joe Clark and Flora MacDonald. Pierre Trudeau said Canada could not unequivocally follow in the wake of the United States. He promised to contribute to the maintenance of world peace (?in keeping with) Canada's possibilities since that country is situated between the Soviet Union and the United States. Pierre Trudeau said that in that Canada saw its most important role on the world scene. And one can only agree with that.

KORIONOV HITS PRC ACTIONS AGAINST VIETNAM, U.S. ROLE

LD210913 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[PRAVDA political observer Vitaliy Korionov article: "Lesson to the Hegemonists"]

[Text] One year ago, on 17 February 1979, Beijing sent its 600,000-strong army equipped with thousands of tanks and guns for a massive surprise attack on six provinces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV].

The peace-loving Vietnamese people were once again forced to take up arms to repell a treacherous attack from a country whose leaders only a few years ago were giving hypocritical assurances that "China and Vietnam are as inseparable as hand and glove."

Fierce fighting continued for a month. Defending every inch of their motherland's sacred soil, the Vietnamese patriots fought herocially. During the month of war Vietnam's Army and population, as the SRV Defense Ministry reported, put 62,500 of the aggressor's soldiers out of action, completely annihilated 3 regiments and 18 battalions, destroyed 550 military vehicles and captured large quantities of weapons and military equipment. The aggressors were forced to withdraw ignominiously from Vietnamese soil.

It was a great victory for Socialist Vietnam's Army and working people. The heroic people proved capable of standing up for themselves this time too.

The Chinese militarists' attack on the SRV fully exposed to the world the aggressive essence of Beijing's great power hegemonist policy. Its leaders intended to elevate fist-law to the rank of a norm of international life. They would like to award themselves the privilege of deciding which people they may "punish" and which they may "pardon." And the Chinese leaders would like to "punish" those who, like Socialist Vietnam, pursue an independent policy and obstruct the implementation of their hegemonist schemes. "To teach a lesson", "to punish"--such is their vocabulary.

The outcome of Beijing's aggressive action is well known. In actuality the ones who were taught a lesson turned out to be those who, ignoring the reality of our time, decided to repeat an adventure which had ended so lamentably for the Pentagon. "What was the Chinese leadership thinking of?" a perplexed Washington STAR asked at the time. "No one has yet forgotten that the Vietnamese have driven from their territory many 'teachers' who have tried to teach them military lessons--the Japanese, French and Americans." Obsessed by great power schemes, the Chinese leadership added itself to this inglorious list.

The Vietnamese people's courage and staunchness enhanced by the solidarity and aid of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and all peace-loving forces doomed the Chinese attack to ignominious failure.

"The whole world," Vietnam's NHAN DAN wrote, "came to Vietnam's defense against the Chinese aggressors. The socialist community displayed firm will and solidarity with Socialist Vietnam. [paragraph continues]

Loyal to its lofty international duty, the Soviet Union through its firm statement, practical actions and broad mass movement stood beside us from the very first minutes and was the mightiest support in our struggle. The three Indochinese countries once again showed their desire for solidarity in the struggle against the common enemy. The international communist movement had one desire--to fully support Vietnam in the struggle against the clique of Chinese aggressors."

The development of events in Southeast Asia is evidence of the development here of two sources of hegemonism threatening the freedom and independence of peoples of Asia--American and Chinese; these aggressive forces are trying to operate in synchrony.

It is known that the Chinese invasion was preceded by a visit by Deng Xiaoping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, to the United States. The Chinese leader's threats to "teach Vietnam a lesson" which were heard during this trip were obviously designed to "probe" Washington's attitude to the adventure planned by Beijing. The White House, which is currently seething with ostentatious "righteous indignation" over the Soviet aid to Afghanistan in the struggle against foreign aggression, essentially gave its blessing to the Chinese partner for the invasion of Vietnam. America's NEWSDAY stated: "Of course the Carter administration was not taken by surprise by what the Chinese have done." R. Holbrooke, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, frankly admitted "We know that these events were imminent."

The "partnership" of American imperialism and Chinese hegemonism has assumed even more distinct forms in the subsequent period. During his visit to China at the beginning of the year U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown said for all to hear that China and the United States "pursue common strategic goals." These goals are profoundly harmful to the vital interests of the peoples, above all the peoples of Asia, and the interests of universal peace.

Washington and Beijing are doing everything to prevent the peoples of Southeast Asia from pursuing the path chosen by them. Having failed in their criminal intrigues against the People's Republic of Kampuchea the Maoists are continuing to hinder in every way the peaceful creative work of the Kampuchean people and are supporting their proteges--the Pol Pot gangs. Beijing's intrigues against the Lao people are not stopping.

The Maoists' military provocations against the SRV continue. The beginning of the current year was marked by a new concentration by China of military hardware on the SRV border, the construction of military fortifications and the transfer of armed forces from inner regions of the country to the SRV borders. Incursions by Chinese military aircraft into Vietnam's airspace are incessantly occuring. At the same time the Pentagon is constantly conducting military demonstrations off the southern shores of the SRV, thereby expressing its solidarity with the Beijing leadership.

The imperialists and Maoists conduct intensive subversive activity in the Southeast Asian countries endeavoring to bring Thailand and other countries of this region into conflict with Kampuchea and Vietnam.

Afghanistan is another region of the world where the American imperialists and the Maoists are acting in concert. Afghan gangs trained by Chinese Army officers and the CIA are receiving a flood of American and Chinese weapons. Pakistan is being increasingly turned into a base for armed subversive activity against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Thus, as a result of the Maoist leadership's policy, China, which is in such great need of peace in order to resolve its internal tasks, has become a serious source of military danger and a direct accomplice of imperialism in the struggle against the forces of socialism and the national liberation movement.

One year ago the Beijing hegemonists received an object lesson on the Vietnamese borders. But they refuse to be deterred. However, they are wrong to think they will succeed, even acting as a team with imperialism, in reversing the development of world events.

Socialist Vietnam has embarked on the correct road of freedom, independence and progress and no one will deflect it from this road. The socialist community countries, the communist movement and all who cherish peace and national independence are on the side of the Vietnamese people's just cause of the heart for Soviet communists and all Soviet people. "At the present complex moment," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted in his Kremlin speech during the signing of the Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation treaty, "when the Chinese leadership's policy has created substantial new difficulties for socialist building on Vietnamese soil, the strength of our friendship and the strength of the solidarity of socialist community states are of particular significance."

Vietnamese patriots know that the stance of the CPSU and Soviet state--Vietnam's true friends--remains unchanged.

VETERANS OF PRC AID PROGRAMS FETED IN MOSCOW

LD201319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report under the general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] The Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society held an evening get-together for Soviet specialists who assisted the Chinese people in creating the foundations of the socialist economy and training cadres for the PRC national economy in the initial years of the establishment of people's power in China.

JAPAN'S ANTI-SOVIETISM COULD 'SERIOUSLY DAMAGE' RELATIONS

LD210933 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[M. Demchenko article: "Is This in Japan's Interests?"]

[Text] According to recent reports from Tokyo, attempts are now being made in Japan to undermine Japanese-Soviet economic cooperation, curtail cultural and other exchanges between the two countries and sow distrust toward the Soviet Union among the Japanese. Certain Japanese mass media, following in the wake of the U.S. propaganda machine, have launched a slander campaign against the Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy course and are fueling the ballyhoo about the invented "Soviet military threat."

Ultimately all this could seriously damage the two countries' good neighborliness, to which the nearly 25 years since the restoration of Soviet-Japanese diplomatic relations have been devoted. By the two states' efforts a great deal has been done to develop trade and expand cultural ties and contacts between representatives of public and business circles in the Soviet Union and Japan. In the period which has elapsed since the normalization of relations annual Soviet-Japanese trade turnover has increased nearly 50-fold. The 5-year agreement on trade exchange and payments for 1976-1980 is being successfully fulfilled. In the first 3 years of the agreement's operation alone, trade turnover between the USSR and Japan exceeded the volume of reciprocal deliveries in the whole of the previous 5 years, and in 1979, according to preliminary Japanese figures, it was 10 percent more than in 1978.

Japan is now one of the USSR's three biggest trade partners among developed capitalist countries. In recent years special significance has been attached to trade exchange on the basis of long-term, large-scale Soviet-Japanese general agreements concluded with a view to mutually advantageous economic cooperation in developing the natural resources of Siberia and the USSR's Far Eastern regions.

It can be said without exaggeration that Japanese-Soviet economic cooperation is an important part of Japan's business life: It involves relatively wide industrial and trading circles in the country. It should also be noted that the consolidation of good neighborliness between the Soviet Union and Japan is a major contribution to maintaining peace and stability in Asia. And many peoples in Japan are well aware of this. However, it appears that the Japanese Government, to the detriment of these relations with the Soviet Union and the independence of its foreign policy line, has embarked on a path of overtly playing into the hands of the American "position of strength policy," joining in economic sanctions against Iran and Afghanistan and increasing assistance to Pakistan, which has become a base for aggression and provocations against the Afghan people.

Attention is drawn to the fact that American economic blackmail evidently had an effect on Japanese Government circles, which suddenly started talking about elaborating some kind of economic "sanctions" with respect to the USSR: stepping up control of exports to the Soviet Union and in particular a possible embargo on the delivery of computers and other modern equipment, and the greatest possible freezing or limiting of exchanges between the two countries.

Many representatives of Japanese business circles and certain Tokyo newspapers, realizing that this shortsighted course could damage Japan itself above all, are calling on their government to adopt a cautious approach to relations with the Soviet Union. [paragraph continues]

ASAHI, one of the country's most influential newspapers, came out against Japan's following the present course of economic blackmail put forward by the American administration with regard to the USSR. It noted that Japanese-Soviet economic cooperation, including developing Siberia's natural resources, accords with Japan's interests. The volume of Japanese-Soviet trade turnover is considerable and is much greater than the level of trade between the United States and the USSR, notes the newspaper NIHON KEIZAI, which expresses the viewpoint of Japanese business circles. Moreover Japan, which has little raw material of its own, has an interest above all in the advancement of Japanese-Soviet cooperation in developing Siberia's raw material resources.

The application by Japan of any "sanctions" against the Soviet Union can ultimately lead to only one thing--destruction of the system of Soviet-Japanese relations which has now become established. It is no accident that Japanese companies are expressing concern that this could deprive them of a number of advantageous trade deals with the Soviet Union, including the delivery of raw goods which Japan's economy is greatly in need of.

The system of Soviet-Japanese ties includes many spheres, among them fisheries. Relations between the two countries in this sphere are regulated by a number of agreements whose aim is to insure the rational exploitation of fish and other marine products without permitting their destruction by plundering. In view of the fact that marine products occupy an important place in the Japanese diet, and guided by the interests of further strengthening cooperation with Japan, the Soviet Union has annually permitted Japanese fishermen, observing certain quotas, to fish for salmon in the northwestern part of the Pacific, where the USSR, as the country in whose rivers these fish spawn, has the right of ownership of the salmon shoal. Japanese fishing circles are now wondering with concern whether Japan's pursuit of the U.S. anti-Soviet course will influence the Soviet Union's attitude to that question, since the application of "sanctions" against the USSR is a weapon that cuts both ways.

Is a deterioration in its relations with the Soviet Union advantageous to Japan? Many Japanese are asking themselves this question today and answering in the negative. The question is also being posed because militarist hysteria has recently been whipped up in Japan in parallel with the launching of the ballyhoo about the invented "Soviet military threat." The United States is dragging Japan more and more actively into its own global strategy and urging it to build up its military might. Certain circles in Japan, as the facts show, are willingly meeting American demands half-way and calling for an increase in expenditure on strengthening the Japanese army, created in violation of the country's constitution. Through their efforts the draft state budget for fiscal 1980 provides for a 6.5 percent increase in military appropriations. It was these circles who also insisted on the decision to purchase combat aircraft from the United States for a total of $4.5 billion and other steps to strengthen the Japanese-American military alliance.

The whipping up of the anti-Soviet atmosphere in Tokyo, the acceleration of military preparations and the maintenance of American military bases on Japanese territory do not accord with Japan's national interest or the interests of peace in Asia. For Japan, whose economy is entirely dependent on foreign trade, it is vitally necessary to develop peaceful trade and economic cooperation with neighbors, and not to slip onto the path of confrontation and "cold war."

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES COUNTRY THREATENS OTHERS

LD201312 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, Afghanistan's minister of foreign affairs, has stated in an interview with Palestinian journalists that Afghanistan had never threatened and would not address threats to neighboring states. We are aiming, he stressed, to establish friendly relations with all countries, including Pakistan and Iran. The minister firmly condemned the U.S. decision to give arms to Pakistan. The reequipping of the Pakistani Army, he said, is unjustified and represents a threat to the security of the region.

AFGHAN SCHOOLS PREPARING FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

LD201826 Moscow TASS in English 1758 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 20, TASS--TASS correspondent Ravil Musin reports:

Preparation for the new academic year in primary and secondary schools started in Afghanistan. In a few weeks time, hundreds of thousands of boys and girls will begin studies.

One of the main tasks of the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is to raise the cultural level of the Afghan people, to give to all the working people an opportunity to get an education, to overcome the grim legacy of the past, wholesale illiteracy, Minister of Education of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Anahita Ratebzad told the TASS correspondent. This problem is not easy to solve. More than 90 per cent of Afghanistan's population is illiterate, and the forces of imperialism, of internal and external reaction try to create obstacles on the road of the development of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, are intimidating the population, exploding schools, killing teachers and children who wish to learn how to read and write.

But the working people of the country, the minister said, are determined to rebuff these intrigues. They are not to be intimidated by the threats of mercenaries of imperialism, of bandits sent into the territory of Afghanistan. The number of pupils who begin studies in the new academic year will increase considerably. The number of students at the adult literacy courses will increase, too. Every Afghan is striving to become literate. The government will do everything in its power to solve as soon as possible this problem which is an obstacle on the road to the country's social and economic development, the minister stressed.

AFGHAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS STATE OF UNION MESSAGE

ID201643 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Resolute Condemnation: DRA Government Report"]

[Text] Kabul, 14 February--An emergency session of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Government under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and Prime minister of the DRA, was held today in connection with U.S. President J. Carter's continuing anti-Afghan remarks. A statement was adopted and has been circulated by the BAKHTAR AGENCY. It says: On 23 January J. Carter delivered the State of the Union Message to the American Congress. After familiarizing ourselves with it, we cannot help expressing our indignation and protest at the interpretation of events in and around Afghanistan made by the head of the American administration in this document. It totally disregards the real state of affairs and presents events in an unrecognizably distorted form.

In essence the American President is arrogating to himself without any justification the right to decide for the Afghan people and their state leadership what is good for our country and what is bad for it, what kind of government we ought to have and what kind of policy as should pursue.

These remarks represent nothing other than a continuation of the crude interference in our motherland's internal affairs. The President makes so bold as to claim that the people's insurrection against H. Amin's despotic government, which put an end to the bloody repressions and persecution of honest patriots, signified "the annihilation of Afghanistan's independence." To declare that is to distort the facts monstrously.

In actual fact an attempt to turn Afghanistan into a springboard for aggressive operations against other countries was thwarted as a result of the overthrow of Amin's dictatorship, and Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity were protected against the endless armed encroachments from outside.

Is it not clear that it is a matter of reviving and strengthening our independence, not of "annihilating" it?

What basis can the U.S. President have for arrogating to himself the right to choose a government for our people? None!

That is the sovereign right of Afghanistan's people. Only they can decide what government suits them.

And they made this choice as a result of the April revolution and the events of 27 December 1979.

Our government is Afghanistan's only legitimate national and democratic people's government. We have the support of broad strata of the people.

No one can deprive us of the inalienable right to choose our friends and turn to them for help, if necessary. We resolutely reject the accusations contained in the message against the Soviet Union, which has supported us in the struggle against foreign aggression--and Washington's involvement in that aggression is no secret.

In calling on the Soviet Union to assist, we were acting in complete accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which guarantees us--and all states that are the target of aggression--the right to collective self-defense. We also relied on Article 4 of the Soviet-Afghan friendship, goodneighborliness and cooperation treaty.

The Soviet Union, answering our call, fulfilled its treaty commitments. It acted in complete accordance with international law.

The U.S. President must know very well that the limited Soviet troop contingent introduced onto Afghanistan's territory at our request is helping protect our motherland's border against incursions from outside. The Afghan people show sympathy and trust toward the Soviet soldiers. The Afghan people have no claims to other countries' territory and no intention of interfering in their internal affairs.

Their territory is not being used for preparations for any kind of steps to draw nearer to the Indian Ocean or Persian Gulf and oil sources. All those are unsubstantiated fabrications. But the head of the American administration prefers to ignore those obvious facts. He also disregards the assurances voiced clearly by the Soviet Government and ourselves that the Soviet units will be withdrawn from Afghanistan as soon as the factors that prompted us to turn for assistance to the USSR disappear.

Is not the President deliberately remaining silent about all this because U.S. right-wing and imperialist circles regard events in and around Afghanistan as an occasion to undermine the relaxation of international tension and justify the expansionist imperialist ambitions of the United States itself?

The DRA Government and people reject with the utmost determination U.S. interference in our country's internal affairs, whatever form it may take--the form of interventionist actions against the Afghan state or the form of provocative remarks. Afghanistan has been and will remain an independent free state.

AFGHAN MOVES TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR AUTHORITIES REPORTED

LD211115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 80 p 6 LD

[P. Demchenko and L. Mironov dispatch "Winter in Kabul"]

[Excerpt] Kabul, February--The peasants love snowfalls. A lot of snow means there will be a lot of water, which in these arid regions promises a good harvest. Soon the spring will come, the snow will go and the fields will have to be plowed and sown. The authorities are already displaying concern for helping the countryside. Addressing the people recently, B. Karmal, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, stated that the government is prepared to give the peasants seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment and where necessary finance. It has decided to raise purchase prices for cotton and sugar beet and has stated that it fully recognizes the peasants' right to own land and pass it on to their relations and heirs.

Laws are now being prepared on all these questions--laws designed to strengthen trust and support for the new authorities on the part of the peasants who make up the overwhelming majority of the country's population and on whom not only the state of the Afghan economy but also the political atmosphere depend to considerable degree. Naturally, the authorities are also thinking of the other strata of the population: "We must be concerned to improve the life of every family, be they peasants, nomads, workers, artisans, teachers, employees or merchants. Every patriot must feel free and secure in his own home."

It is not hard to understand that this way of posing the question reflects the class essence of the present Afghan regime and its desire to rectify the flagrant errors of the recent past which saw both dashing ahead and vacillation from side to side, unbridled tyranny and attempts to flirt with reactionary pro-imperialist forces. All this led to deep rifts among the people and in the ruling People's Democratic Party, which the new leadership intends to eliminate by creating a broad social basis for the new system in the country.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo recently decided to remove from the streets and production premises all slogans and statements deemed to be "leftist" and failing to accord with the spirit of the times. It has also been decided to change the national flag and emblem. It was decided to do this not by a simple decree "from above" but by democratic means: The press published a call to the population to make known its wishes with respect to the color and design of the new national flag and emblem. Only after discussing the proposals and wishes will the Revolutionary Council adopt a relevant decree.

These steps are evidently in need of explanation. The point is that during the period of rule of H. Amin, overthrown at the end of December last year, extensive use was made of ultrarevolutionary phraseology which was not backed up by practical deeds. [paragraph continues]

AFGHAN TRADE WORKERS COMPLETE STUDY TOUR OF UZBEKISTAN

LD201653 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 6 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[UZTAG report: "Guests of Republic--Afghanistan's Trade Workers"]

[Text] A delegation of trade workers from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan headed by Minister of Commerce M.K. Jalalar has completed its tour of Uzbekistan.

The guests visited a number of urban and rural trade centers in the Fergana Valley and met with representatives of labor collectives from industrial enterprises and with cotton growers.

On 5 February the delegation was received by T.N. Osetrov, first deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

Sharing his impressions on his stay in Uzbekistan M.K. Jalalar said:

"Familiarization with the experience of trade services for the population in Uzbekistan has given us a great deal. We were interested in the organization of trade and public catering in rural localities and the activity of the consumer cooperative in purchasing surplus agricultural products from the population and producing finished products. We hope that everything we have seen in the Soviet Union and in particular in Uzbekistan will help Afghanistan's trade workers successfully accomplish the tasks of raising the people's well-being set for them by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan."

PRAVDA CITES PAKISTAN TU BODY'S SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REGIME

LD200959 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Baykov dispatch: "Voice of the Public"]

[Text] Islamabad, 14 February--Progressive Pakistani public circles are supporting the Afghan revolution and sharply condemning the subversive activity carried out against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Government from Pakistani territory.

On behalf of its 200,000 members the Pakistan National Trade Union Federation sent Afghanistan's trade unions a message expressing support for the DRA people and government and stating readiness to establish closer contacts with the working people of "progressive and democratic Afghanistan."

The Federation, the message goes on to note, expresses confidence that the "conspiracies that Pakistan's unrepresentative, antidemocratic, antinational ruling circles and their imperialist masters are hatching against the DRA will collapse in the face of the onward movement of history, as a result of progressive forces' efforts."

The Pakistani-Afghan Friendship Society has circulated a statement resolutely protesting the military training on Pakistani territory of Afghan counterrevolutionaries who are subsequently sent into DRA territory. "Pakistani soil," the statement stresses, "must not be used for purposes hostile to Afghanistan."

In recent days similar statements have been issued by a number of public organizations.

PAKISTAN ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN TENSION REVIEWED

LD210735 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 6, 8 Feb 80 pp 10-11 LD

[I. Alganov article: "A Dangerous Role"]

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, Australian Foreign Minister A. Peacock, finally, Z. Brzezinski, national security adviser to the U.S. President, together with Deputy Secretary of State W. Christopher and Assistant Secretary of Defense D. McGiffert....

In January and the first few days of February they came one after another to the Pakistani capital of Islamabad for urgent talks with Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator and president of Pakistan, and other officials. But the guests' trips were not confined to the capital. As a rule they set off at once for Peshawar and other regions of northwestern Pakistan, where a dense network of camps has long since been set up for the so-called "Afghan refugees," but in fact for the military training and equipping of counterrevolutionary mercenaries who are sent into the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

It was these aggressive actions from Pakistani territory against a neighboring sovereign state, directed primarily from Washington and Beijing, that were the cause of the sharp exacerbation of tension in that part of the Middle East. It was the need to defend the Afghan people against that serious external threat which dictated the DRA revolutionary government's appeal to the Soviet Union for military and other assistance. As for the story now being vigorously put about by the American, British and Chinese propaganda machines about some kind of "danger" allegedly hanging over Pakistan--a story which is also being taken up by certain Muslim regimes--it is completely false. It is intended simply to mask the efforts of imperialist and reactionary circles to expand and step up anti-Afghan operations, above all from precisely Pakistani territory.

According to reports filtering into the world press, in Pakistan there are 20-30 special camps and on the order of 50 strong points where military formations of various sizes, intended for sending into Afghanistan, are being knocked together. There, too, special agents and detachments of terrorists and saboteurs are being trained. They are all being equipped with American and Chinese weapons. Their instructors are experienced American and Chinese special service employees and Pakistani army officers. The biggest camps and bases for mercenaries are located in Peshawar, Chitral, Parachinar, Attock, Miram Shah, Zhob, Cherat, Kohat, Warsak, Quetta, Landi Kotal, Jamrud....

Although Pakistani official circles, headed by the president, try to wash their hands of their involvement in anti-Afghan activity, these excuses cannot be taken seriously. Any government is responsible for all that is done on its country's territory. All the more so when officers of the Pakistani Army, whose commander in chief is President Gen Ziaul Haq himself, are assigned to the anti-Afghan rebels' camps. All the more so when counter-revolutionaries hiding under the banner of Islam are given the opportunity to utilize two broadcasting stations (in the region of Peshawar and Quetta) and are given assistance in preparing anti-Afghan press materials. The Pakistani press also gives them a wide platform. Enemies of Democratic Afghanistan operating from Pakistani territory are allocated relatively generous material and financial aid and given weapons from the Pakistani Army's arsenals. Military equipment supplied from other countries is being transported by Pakistani ships. The high mountain Karakorum highway, whose construction was completed in 1978, is used intensively for the land transportation of arms from China.

Why has the Pakistani leadership taken on this unseemly and dangerous role? Let us recall that the military regime was installed in this country in July 1977 as a result of a coup. The parliamentary elections promised by its leader, which were to lead to the restoration of civilian rule, have been repeatedly postponed, and the question of elections has now been practically removed from the agenda. Political activity is banned and censorship is imposed on the press (which does not, however, hinder the wide publication of anti-Afghan and recently also anti-Soviet materials. The military authorities promoted the transfer of all internal life onto a footing of strict observance of the Islamic religious canons, the laws of the Shari'at, right up to the widespread use today of floggings for various kinds of misdemeanours, including those of a political nature.

"Pakistan's economy is in disarray," the Hong Kong journal ASIA WEEK writes in a January issue, noting that during Ziaul Haq's military rule there has been a sharp deterioration in the country's economic situation. The journal sees Pakistan's growing dependence on imports, leading to a huge trade deficit, as one of the reasons for this. In the current fiscal year the estimated deficit will total $2.6 billion. However, despite this economic situation, ASIA WEEK notes, expenditure on defense and also on the military and civilian bureaucratic apparatus has increased by 20 percent a year recently. In 1979 it is estimated that $1.1 billion was spent on the armed forces and $225 million on maintaining the bureaucratic apparatus.

Exploiting the economic and political difficulties the regime has come up against, the White House and Zhongnanhai are striving to make Pakistan, which is in close proximity to the USSR's southern borders, the main bulwark of their aggressive, hegemonist plans in the Middle East and the main bridgehead in the struggle against Afghanistan, which has embarked on a path of progressive development. Hence the influx of high-ranking visitors into Pakistan and the promises of immediate military and economic aid (Washington has announced the allocation of $400 million for these purposes in the next 2 years, and according to the Washington POST Z. Brzezinski stated in Islamabad that this is "only a beginning". Hence, too, the plans being actively considered by the White House for sending its own armed forces into Pakistan. These plans, it is reported, provide for the "one time sending" of American troops into Pakistan at first and the "temporary" use by American combat ships and planes of naval and air bases which exist there, and later the establishment of a U.S. military presence on a permanent basis.

As for the weapons which the United States proposes to supply to the Pakistani Army, as the Washington POST for 26 January notes, they include jet aircraft, tanks, armored carriers, surface ships and submarines, antitank missiles and air-to-surface and air-to-air missiles. The newspaper indicates here that such massive American aid will make it possible for Ziaul Haq's regime to direct its own resources into accelerating work on creating a nuclear weapon.

That is why India's THE STATESMAN newspaper wrote on 30 January: "Obviously the greatest harm will be done to the strengthening of peace in our region by the rearming of Pakistan, particularly in the atmosphere of flourishing totalitarianism in that country, the cancelation of the elections and the restoration of the Islamic order of feudal times. India could regard all this as a new provocation against it."

It is no accident that it was in Islamabad that the extraordinary conference of Islamic countries' foreign ministers was convened in late January. Clearly at the instigation of the United States and China and other reactionary forces, an overt new attempt at interference in peace-loving Afghanistan's affairs was made at the conference. [paragraph continues]

The conference showed unambiguously that Washington and Beijing, donning the garb of defenders of Islam, seek to involve many Muslim countries in their conspiracy. And it must be said that official Islamabad representatives of the highest rank are actively playing into their hands. At the conference they reiterated the hackneyed theses of imperialist and Maoist propaganda.

Pakistan is being pushed onto a dangerous path contrary to its true national interests. It is clearly necessary to counterpose political realism, statesmanlike wisdom and a sense of one's own dignity to the fever of militarist passions fanned by Washington and Beijing.

In this connection it is apposite to recall L.I. Brezhnev's words (in his recent answers to the PRAVDA correspondent's questions) to the effect that assertions that the Soviet Union has expansionist plans with respect to Pakistan, Iran or other countries in that region are absolutely false. "The colonialists' policy and psychology are alien to us. We do not covet other people's lands, we are not eager for other people's wealth," L.I. Brezhnev stressed.

Kabul's position should also be recalled. The new DRA Government has already declared repeatedly that it extends the hand of sincere friendship to all its neighbors, including Pakistan and Iran. As Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, stressed at a press conference on 23 January, the establishment of friendly relations within the peoples of Pakistan and Iran is in complete accordance with the Afghan people's will and is the general policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government. "As for Pakistan," he said, "although that country has at present become a refuge for Afghanistan's enemies, the DRA party and government are making every effort to eliminate the misunderstanding which exists and to establish friendly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan." Surely it is obvious that corresponding moves in a spirit of good will would be to the benefit of both countries and would promote peace in the region?

One would like to believe that in the complex international situation Islamabad will display a sober awareness of realities. Pakistan has many problems whose resolution would be best promoted by ending the confrontation with neighboring states, refusing to take part in adventures thought up by world reaction in the person of Brzezinski, Huang Hua and their like, and creating an atmosphere of trust, mutual understanding and good neighborliness. Just such a path would accord with the interests of the Pakistani people and contains the guarantee of their prosperity and peaceful future.

ARKHIPOV-LED DELEGATION LEAVES MOSCOW FOR DELHI CELEBRATIONS

LD211116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] A Soviet Government delegation led by Arkhipov, deputy chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, today left Moscow for Delhi to attend celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Soviet-Indian economic cooperation.

ALIYEV HOSTS RECEPTION FOR HENG SAMRIN DELEGATION

LD211019 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 10 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "Reception at Azerbaijan CP Central Committee]

[Text] On 9 February G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, received the delegation of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation and People's Revolutionary Council headed by Heng Samrin, president of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation Central Committee and president of the Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Council.

On behalf of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee and the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers Comrade Aliyev warmly welcomed the guests. Your delegation's visit to the Soviet Union, the talks between Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and the other CPSU and Soviet Government leaders and the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation and People's Revolutionary Council delegation, and the Soviet-Kampuchean documents that have been signed, he said, are at the center of the attention of our country's public, including Azerbaijan's. Soviet people have always displayed solidarity with the Kampuchean people's heroic struggle for national salvation, for liberation from the yoke of the barbarous Pol Pot regime and against Beijing's chauvinist violence. They rejoice sincerely at free Kampuchea's successes on the path of implementing progressive transformations in the country aimed at building socialism.

G.A. Aliyev described the tremendous successes of Azerbaijan's working people in every sphere of socioeconomic life--successes achieved in 60 years of Soviet power within the fraternal family of the USSR peoples. They all became possible, he noted, thanks to the unsweving implementation of the Communist Party's Leninist nationalities policy and the constant consideration, assistance and concern for the republic's blossoming on the part of the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo, the Soviet Government and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally. The main efforts of the republic's party organization are now aimed at implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the tasks set in the speech there by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and successfully fulfilling the targets of the concluding year and the 10th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

In the Soviet Union, Comrade Aliyev said, Kampuchea's people have a reliable and faithful friend. We hope your stay in Azerbaijan will be a factor in strengthening still more the friendship between our countries and will help you get better acquainted with Soviet people's life and with the transformations that have taken place in our country under the banner of the October Revolution and the invincible Marxist-Leninist teaching. He wished the friendly Kampuchean people happiness, well-being and new successes on the path of progress and prosperity.

This is the first time in history that a top-level People's Republic of Kampuchea delegation has visited the motherland of the great Lenin, Pen Sovan, vice president of the People's Revolutionary Council, minister of national defense and commander in chief of the Kampuchea People's Revolutionary Army, said, and everywhere we have been we have felt Soviet people's warmth and solidarity. Our delegation has been able to see for itself the tremendous achievements accomplished by the Soviet Union's working people under the leadership of the Communist Party and its Central Committee.

Pen Sovan expressed sincere gratitude and profound thanks to the CPSU and Soviet Government and to all Soviet people for their fraternal international assistance and support in building a new life. [paragraph continues]

The meetings on Soviet soil and talks with Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and the other Soviet leaders, he said, have filled us with still greater confidence that the relations between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the USSR will continue to develop and deepen in every sphere.

There is no force capable of stopping our onward revolutionary development. There is no force capable of breaking the close ties of friendship and solidarity between the Soviet and Kampuchean peoples.

In conclusion Pen Sovan wished the republic party organization and all the Azerbaijani people new successes in building communism.

The following took part in the conversation: P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; K.A. Khalilov, member of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.I. Ibragimov, member of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Bureau and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers; K.M. Bagirov, member of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Bureau and secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee; Col Gen Avn A.U. Konstantinov, member of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Bureau and commander of the Red Banner Baku Air Defense District; O.V. Bostorin, USSR ambassador to the People's Republic of Kampuchea; T.A. Tairova, Azerbaijan SSR Foreign Minister; R.A. Abutalipov, chief of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Foreign Relations Department; N.A. Akhunov, executive of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee; and other officials.

CHERNENKO RECEIVES VIETNAM'S VO NGUYEN GIAP

LD201210 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

["Talk at CPSU Central Committee"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 20, TASS--Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko today received Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Vo Nguyen Giap. Some questions of cooperation between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Vietnam were discussed in the course of the talk which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

AUSTRALIA LIFTS BAN ON MINERAL EXPORTS TO USSR

LD191555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[TASS report under the rubric "International Information": "Australian Government's Decision"]

[Text] Canberra, 13 February--The U.S. administration's attempts with the aid of direct pressure to force Australia to follow a course of economic pressure on the Soviet Union are failing. The Australian Government has decided to lift the recently introduced ban on exports of titanium ore--rutile--and bauxites and aluminum to the USSR.

Australian Deputy Premier J. Anthony stated after a Cabinet meeting: "The Government has decided that the export of these types of raw material to the Soviet Union should continue as usual." "The USSR," he added, "does not depend on imports of strategic raw materials and it would have no serious difficulties in finding other suppliers."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Talks, Luncheon

LD201454 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Talks were held in Moscow today between Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and Fischer, member of the SED Central Committee and GDR foreign minister. During the course of the talks questions of the further development of fraternal cooperation between both countries were discussed. Certain topical international problems, including those relating to the situation in Europe, were also examined.

Gromyko gave a luncheon in Fischer's honor. The ministers exchanged speeches in which were expressed feelings of fraternal friendship and complete unity, typical of relations between the Soviet Union and the GDR. Present at the luncheon were Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; ministers of the USSR; Abrasimov, USSR ambassador to the GDR; executive officials of the CPSU Central Committee and of the USSR Foreign Ministry; the officials accompanying the GDR foreign minister; and Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

The talks were continued in the second half of the day. A joint communique, which will be published in the press, was agreed on. Fischer left for home today. At the airport he was seen off by Gromyko and other officials.

Fischer Interview

DW211118 Moscow in German to Germany 1740 GMT 20 Feb 80 DW

[Unattributed interview with GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer on his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko in Moscow on 20 February--recorded]

[Text] Negotiations were held in Moscow between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the GDR. Andrey Gromyko and Oskar Fischer discussed questions related to further cooperation between the two countries, as well as a number of current international issues. After the negotiations ended the GDR foreign minister granted an interview to our correspondent prior to his flight home.

[Question] Comrade Minister, you have regular meetings with your Soviet counterpart. What have been the topics and results of the talks with Comrade Gromyko which have just ended?

[Answer] Constant coordination between the foreign ministers is indeed a traditional component of cooperation between the GDR and the USSR, cooperation that is growing closer and closer and which really comprises all fields. This meeting also, which took place at the invitation of the Soviet Government, showed convincingly that the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance of 7 October 1975 is being implemented successfully. In the course of the talks it was noted with satisfaction that the joint arrangements from the significant meetings between Comrade Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman, and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, are being implemented successfully. Our cooperation, which is based on Marxism-Leninism and borne by the internationalist spirit, is bearing rich fruit for the well-being of our peoples and for the benefit of socialism and--as can be said--peace.

[Question] What could you actually say about the discussions on international issues?

[Answer] In the course of the talks the international situation was analyzed thoroughly, and the detailed exchange of views on international developments not only showed complete unanimity in assessing the situation but also conformity in defining the tasks facing the GDR and the USSR together with their allies.

[Question] Could you name some of the focal points of the issues discussed?

[Answer] Well, I certainly do not divulge a secret if I say that the continuation of the socialist peace offensive figured as the central point in the talks. This actually could not have been otherwise in the face of the endless attacks launched by the most reactionary and aggressive imperialist quarters on detente policy and its results. To act responsibly today means to deal a decisive rebuff to the course of aggravating the international situation and relapsing into cold war.

The joint communique on the visit to the friendly and allied Soviet Union points to the peace-endangering attempts by NATO to break the parity existing in the military field between the NATO and Warsaw Pact states through an excessively intensified rearmament as, for instance, through the production of new generations of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles and their stationing in Western Europe. It is of course absolutely clear that the Brussels missile decisions, as we rightly call them, do not constitute a road that leads toward peace and security of peoples.

The talks held between Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and myself also express complete agreement about the fact that the well-known proposals made by the socialist states for the strengthening of security and trust in Europe are of more topicality today than ever before. Their implementation offers peaceful perspectives, that is to say perspectives worth living, to all peoples. In our joint view it is important to prevent the accomplishments of detente from being jeopardized by irresponsible actions. It is the command of the hour to fight for this end.

'Continuation of Peace Offensive'

ID:10242 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2030 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, 20 Feb, TASS--The continuation of the peace offensive by the socialist countries occupied a central place in the talks, said GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer. Nothing else was to be expected in the face of the unceasing attacks by the most reactionary and aggressive circles of imperialism, which are directed against the policy of easing tension and its results. For to act with a consciousness of one's responsibilities means giving a decisive rebuff to the course of aggravating the international situation and returning events to the times of the "cold war."

This statement was made to journalists today by Oskar Fischer before he flew out of Moscow, where he was paying a visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

The joint communique points to NATO's attempts to endanger peace through a boundless aggravation of the arms race, for instance, by producing and deploying new types of American medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe in order to undermine the military balance between the countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the minister said. It is completely clear, he noted, that the Brussels decisions on nuclear missiles are not the way to achieve peace and security for peoples.

TELEVISION PROTOCOL WITH GDR SIGNED IN MOSCOW

LD191213 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] A working protocol on cooperation in the field of television was signed in Moscow today between the USSR and the GDR for 1980-81. Special attention will be devoted to covering preparations for and marking of the 110th anniversary of Lenin's birth, the 35th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and the liberation of the German people from fascism. The protocol was signed by Comrade Lapin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Comrade Adameck, chairman of the GDR State Committee for Television.

TANJUG CITED: TITO'S CONDITION UNCHANGED

LD201432 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Belgrade, February 20, TASS--The general state of health of President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito remains unchanged, says a report of the council of attending physicians transmitted by the news agency TANJUG. He spent calmly the previous night and subjectively feels better. The intensive measures of treatment are still being used.

HUSAK GREETS BREZHNEV WHILE OVERFLYING USSR

En Route to Indochina

LD150851 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[TASS report: "From on Board Aircraft"]

[Text] Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR, has sent from on board his aircraft a telegram to L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. It reads: "Overflying USSR territory, I send you and the entire fraternal Soviet people warm comradely greetings and wishes for new successes in implementing the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and in the struggle for the unity of the socialist community and the international communist and workers movement and for the triumph of the ideas of socialism, peace and progress."

En Route Home

LD181110 Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 18, TASS--General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Gustav Husak has sent from aboard the plane a telegramme to General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev.

The telegramme runs: "Flying over the territory of the Soviet Union on my return home after the visits to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, I send you and the Soviet people as a whole sincere fraternal greetings and wishes of big success in the construction of a communist society, in the struggle for peace future of the whole of mankind".

GLAZUNOV COMMENTS ON VANCE VISIT, EEC-U.S. RELATIONS

LD201446 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has begun his tour of West Europe, taking him to Bonn, Rome, Paris and London. Our observer Viktor Glazunov analyzes the aims of the visit:

When the trip was being planned, Washington thought it would be enough for Cyrus Vance to arrive in Bonn, summoning whoever he needed and everyone would come. But Paris said a firm "No" to the idea of a meeting of West European foreign ministers to work out a joint policy in view of the events in Afghanistan. There was lack of enthusiasm in other capitals, too. So Cyrus Vance has decided to deal with America's West European partners one at a time.

According to the New York TIMES, he will try to achieve better coordination with the allies, whose posture irritates Washington. Actually the feeling is mutual. What annoys West Europe is Washington's rash decisions which do harm to the relaxation of tension. The Federal German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt feels that American foreign policy is almost unpredictable. What is needed now, in his opinion, is common sense and calm. Nothing should be done that could result in an aggravation of the situation.

As for France, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has made it clear that it will not allow itself to be drawn into a policy of confrontation between (?blocs). It is confrontation that Washington is seeking. As for its partners, it is assigning them the role of subservience. President Carter said the United States must be the leader. He seems to be ignoring the fact that other nations don't want to follow in the wake of Washington, that they have their own interests.

The consequences of the present shifts in American foreign policy are causing ever-greater concern in West Europe. The West European people do not want the cold war to be revived because the policy of easing tension has greatly benefited the continent. What is more, there is growing realization there that Washington regards confrontation as the most suitable atmosphere for keeping its partners on a short leash. The calls to curtail economic relations with the Soviet Union portray the anxiety of U.S. corporations at the growing competitive ability of their partners.

As for the United States efforts to gain foot in the Persian Gulf area, they make one wonder if the United States is not trying to establish its control over the energy sources of West Europe and Japan, and in this way acquire new means of exerting pressure on them. The Italian newspaper IL GIORNO has assessed the relationship between Europe and the United States as complex. Evidently Washington, too, realizes this. Anyway, State Department circles have warned against extreme optimism concerning the possible results of Cyrus Vance's visit to West Europe.

EEC CALL FOR AFGHAN NEUTRALITY 'ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE'

LD201350 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Rome, February 20, TASS--A regular session of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities at the level of foreign ministers ended here. On the session's agenda were questions of East-West relations. A number of topical international problems were discussed, specifically those connected with the situation in the Near and Middle East, as well as the course of preparations for the Madrid meeting of representatives of states, participants in the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The session has not adopted any final communique or statement, which, in the opinion of observers, attests to substantial differences among its participants.

The newspaper L'UNITA writes in this connection that the positions of the Common Market countries on the role of Western Europe in connection with the crisis in East-West relations that started after NATO's decision on the production and deployment of U.S. missiles were and remain much differing. At the same time, speaking at a press conference, Italy's Foreign Minister Attilio Ruffini who chaired the session, said that its participants agreed in the opinion on the impermissibility of ending the dialogue with the USSR and expressed the wish to promote the success of the Madrid meeting.

Attilio Ruffini said that the ministers had not adopted any joint document and merely "pointed to a coincidence of views" on some problems. He said that one of these problems was the situation in Afghanistan. He added that the ministers declared that Afghanistan should be turned into a "neutral country" and said that it is only on the lines of Afghanistan's neutralization that the way out of the present situation can supposedly be found.

But as the Parisian L'HUMANITE writes today, the wording concerning Afghanistan's "neutrality" "that looks harmless at a first glance, is in reality absolutely unacceptable, since it reiterates the main contents of the U.S. theses under which the responsibility for the present international tensions is placed on the Soviet Union. This formula in reality does not reflect the existence of the sovereign rights of the Afghan people. This proposal was advanced by Britain which, as is known, shares Washington's views without reservations..."

It is noted here that there is no justification for the efforts of the EEC ministers to assume the right to decide for a sovereign country as to what status it should have and what policy it should conduct. The striving is also being manifested to continue the line at interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, an attempt is being made to camouflage the real reasons for the emergence of the present Afghan situation. Meanwhile, there can be only one way to the normalization of the situation--an end to the attempts of the United States, China and Pakistan to change the existing revolutionary system of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan through organizing an external aggression.

EUROPARLIAMENT REACTIONARIES INTERFERE IN BLOC STATES' AFFAIRS

LD210731 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Kharlanov dispatch: "Short Circuit"]

[Text] Paris, 17 February--The reason why microphones regularly go out of action and the electronic voting system fails to work in the Sessions Hall of the European Parliament in Strasbourg has finally been explained. It transpires that friction from the parliamentarians' woolen suits against the plastic seats creates a concentration of static electricity which constantly closes the circuit.

It looks as though the short circuit in Strasbourg is also becoming a tradition in the political atmosphere. The rightwing majority of the Strasbourg assembly is persistently seeking to narrow the European Parliament's work down to questions which do not come within its competence and are far removed from the needs and requirements of the population of the nine Common Market countries. Thus, at the session which ended on Friday the British Conservatives and West German Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union deputies contrived to impose on the Europarliament a series of resolutions which constitute blatant interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and a number of other countries.

The communist deputies and many socialists opposed the provocations of the Europarliament's reactionary majority.

NATO ACTIVITY IN NORWAY THREATENS NORTH EUROPE

LD201519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Yuriy Kuznetsov "Commentator's Column": "Against Norway's Interests"]

[Text] Oslo--NATO Allied Armed Forces will conduct routine maneuvers in northern Norway for a whole month--from 28 February through 27 March. As the press points out, their puspose will be to rehearse landing operations and to train troops under winter conditions.

These days it has also become known in Oslo that the North Atlantic bloc's leading circles are finalizing an agreement under which a special U.S. Marine brigade of up to 10,000 men will be permanently "targeted on Norway" and ready to be airlifted across the ocean at any minute. It is also reported that the new plan provides for the preliminary transfer and storage of heavy military equipment in Norway or in "adjacent regions" so that the aforesaid marines brigade can be deployed "in a matter of days."

Plans to set up such NATO "fire-brigade forces" have long been in existence. Recently work on them has been intensively accompanied by fabrications about a "threat" from the Soviet Union.

It is pointed out here that such actions and "arguments" run counter both to the vital interests of Norway itself and to simple commonsense. The overwhelming majority of Norwegians well understand that the USSR poses no threat to their country.

As for the agreement being imposed on Norway with regard to the advance preparation of military equipment for NATO forces, such authoritative figures in the country as for example former Prime Minister E. Gerhardsen have pointed out that it contradicts Norway's official policy on military bases. In accordance with this traditional policy, NATO has not been allowed in the past and should not be permitted now to create stocks and store heavy military equipment on Norwegian territory.

TIEDONANTAJA, the Finnish communist newspaper, writes that "U.S. military steps in north Europe directly threaten Finland's security. As a consequence of the creation of American strong points in northern Norway, Sweden and Finland are being put in a position which could oblige these countries to amend their plans for insuring security."

The upcoming NATO troop maneuvers and the other military preparations of this bloc point to the NATO leadership's obvious desire to complicate the military-political situation in north Europe.

NATO PRESSURES SWEDEN FOR CLOSER TIES

LD161528 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Now back to Europe, this time Sweden: Swedish television viewers recently heard an American military expert recommend urgent reinforcement of the Swedish Army, primarily the air force. The expert claimed Sweden was the weakest link in the chain of countries near the Soviet Union. We bring you a report from Yuriy Kuznetsov, correspondent of the national daily PRAVDA in Sweden:

The statement was issued at a time when the Swedish public developed a discussion relating to the demand made by the country's military-industrial circles on rearming the air force.

It is common knowledge that ever since the last war Sweden has maintained a quite impressive air force, which according to many people not only does not conform to the country's international standing but also weighs heavily on the national budget. The Swedish news media have more than once referred to the country's ties with American and West German aircraft-makers and military departments.

Now the Swedish public note a further strengthening of cooperation with the NATO powers. Spokesmen for the Swedish Defense Ministry publicly discuss various alternatives of re-arming their air force. Their chief arguments are these: Even if the government decides to add to its air force a new aircraft that is a combination fighter, attack and intelligence plane, such an aircraft should not necessarily be of a Swedish make, but, say, a version of the American F-16 fitted with Swedish-made equipment. The talk on the possibility of arming the air force of neutral Sweden with American combat planes means obvious pressure on local political and public circles, which implies that if allocations worth billions are not granted for wide-scale production of new Swedish combat planes the country will have to ask the West to supply it with foreign-made aircraft.

The future will show how all this will end. In the meantime, the government's attitude to the project is not clear. Nevertheless, it is obvious that certain elements in Sweden and outside would very much like to see the neutral nation be involved in NATO's military preparations and included in their strategic plots.

WENJIN VISIT TO SPAIN DRAWS CRITICISM

LD201043 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Report by correspondent L. Kamynin: "For Unseemly Purposes"]

[Text] Madrid--Madrid was one of PRC Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin's calls on his tour of West European countries. The tour was reportedly made "to improve relations between China and West Europe." Clearly to this end the Beijing emissary cast right, left and center, during his visit to Spain, the "marked card" of anti-Sovietism, bleating about "Soviet expansionism" and "recommending" West Europe to "unite politically."

It is characteristic that his arrival was accompanied by a Madrid press report that Chinese Embassy representatives had met with a top official of the Spanish Supreme Sports Council, who was strongly "advised" to renounce participation in the Moscow Olympics. But the purveyors of unsolicited advice were shown the door. As the paper PUEBLO wrote, it was made clear to them that this question is entirely a matter for the Spanish Olympic Committee, which had unanimously decided to continue preparations for the summer games in the Soviet capital.

In fact, the Beijing traveler was luckier than that: Some official representatives in Madrid did give him an emphatically cordial reception. But many people here rightly wonder what can be expected of a visit whose unseemly purpose was so obvious. And was it really necessary to bow and scrape before the visitor?

NEW AMBASSADOR TO ITALY APPOINTED

LD202213 Moscow TASS in English 2144 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 21, TASS--Valentin Oberemko has been appointed USSR ambassador in the Italian Republic.

Nikita Ryzhov has been relieved of his duties of ambassador in connection with a new assignment.

IRAN SENTENCES TWO POLICE OFFICERS TO DEATH

LD201949 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 20, TASS--Two police officers have been sentenced to death by the Islamic Revolutionary Tribunal in Sari, north eastern part of Iran. They are charged with counterrevolutionary activities and mass killings of patriots in the period of the rule of the deposed shah.

IRAN OFFICIALLY ACCEPTS WALDHEIM COMMISSION PLAN

LD202253 Moscow TASS in English 2242 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 20, TASS--Iran's President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr sent a telegramme to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim officially informing him of the consent of the Islamic Revolutionary Council and Ayatollah Khomeyni to the arrival in Tehran of an international commission to investigate the accusations advanced by Iran against the deposed shah. The commission will be investigating the crimes of the deposed shah and the facts of the United States' interference in the internal affairs of Iran, Bani-Sadr stressed in a statement for the press.

At a press conference here Iran's Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh refuted the reports that American hostages will be released or transferred from the embassy to another place before the ending of the work of the international commission. He said that hostages can be called to the meetings of the commission to give testimonies. Sadeq Qotbzadeh said again that their release still depends on the extradition of the shah and the recognition by the United States of its fault with regard to Iran.

Washington, February 20, TASS--Showing arrogant disdain for the will and demands of the Iranian people, President Carter categorically refused again to make apologies to Iran for U.S. interference in its affairs over many years and for encouraging the crimes of the deposed shah's regime. This was reported by members of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress who participated in a meeting with President Carter in the White House.

According to Congressman James Mattox, Carter said that the United States will not be making any statements with apologies for any actions that took place in the past.

Going by the statement of J. Mattox, Washington has no intentions of giving up the political, economic and military pressure on Iran. Carter spoke about the possibility of this pressure being increased further, J. Mattox said.

BANI-SADR THANKS BREZHNEV FOR ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

LD201440 Moscow TASS in English 1403 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 20, TASS--President of Iran Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has sent a message to President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, expressing gratitude for the congratulations on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Iranian Islamic revolution. I sincerely wish, the message stresses, progress and well-being to the Soviet people.

SOVIET SPECIALISTS AID IRANIANS IN FLOOD-STRICKEN KHUZESTAN

LD201505 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 80 Morning Editon p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov report: "A Friend in Need"]

[Text] Tehran--As a result of the torrential rain which has fallen in southwestern regions of Iran, where the country's vitally important oilfields and oil refineries are located, the Karum River and its tributaries have burst their banks and flooded vast areas.

Ayatollah Khomeyni's headquarters in Qom and the Revolutionary Council in Tehran appealed to the country's population and to the army and all government institutions to help the reisdents in the cities and settlements affected. Military units have been sent there.

In the city of **Ahwaz**, the administrative centre of Khuzestan Province, which is suffering from flooding, there is a large collective of Soviet specialists who are helping Iran to construct the Ramin thermal power station, the biggest in southern Iran. Your correspondent spoke on the telephone to Anatoliy Yevgenyevich Zhilinskiy, chief of the construction administration of the Ramin thermal power station. He told me that the settlement where the Soviet collective lives and the construction site itself are safe, but Soviet people have not remained indifferent at a time of trouble for their Iranian comrades at work. At present, A. Zhilinskiy said, all the bulldozers, graders and dump trucks driven by Soviet people have been sent to rescue residents in nearby settlements and to protect **Ahwaz** itself. The entire stock of balnkets, bedding and medical supplies the Soviet people possess have been placed at the disposal of the victims.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, LEBANON

LD201615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Interview with A.H. Khaddam"]

[Text] Damascus, 16 February--The question of defending Islam is being resolved not in Afghanistan but in Palestine, Jerusalem and Lebanon, where Muslims are being killed with American weapons and from American aircraft, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, declared in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR.

The United States, he said, wants to use Islamic states for the struggle against the Soviet Union in the interests of its own global strategy. At the same time imperialist circles are creating a **ballyhoo**, speculating on the defense of Islam in order to crush the revolutionary movement among Muslims, which has manifested itself in particular in the Iranian revolution which overthrew the shah and ended American domination of the country.

Resolutely condemning the anti-Afghan campaign mounted by U.S. ruling circles, Khaddam emphasized that the development of events in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan gives Washington no grounds for building up its military preparations in this region.

The Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister named the liquidation of everything resulting from the Camp David agreements as the priority task in a Near East settlement. We believe, he said, that the signing of these agreements has still further complicated the situation in the region and encouraged Tel Aviv to activate its aggressive policy of aggrandizement. At the same time as As-Sadat is holding talks with Israel on so-called "Palestinian autonomy," Tel Aviv hawks are creating more and more new settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan.

Khaddam pointed out that Syria's decision to regroup its troops in Lebanon and withdraw them from Beirut is final. At the same time he gave an assurance that these troops will remain in the environs of Beirut and in other parts of the country. The Lebanese authorities, according to him, must embark on a path of national concord, which is the only guarantee of the country's security and of a settlement of the internal Lebanese conflict. The minister voiced his country's readiness to assist Lebanon in conducting a national dialog.

Pointing to the desire of certain circles in the West to plunge Lebanon once again into war, Khaddam declared that the aim of these circles is to divert attention from the implementation of the Camp David compact and to extend the Camp David agreements to the whole region. There is no doubt, he emphasized, that one of the aims of the Camp David agreements is to complicate the situation in Lebanon.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic evaluated positively the initiative of Lebanon's national patriotic forces which several days ago put forward a program of national action aimed at normalizing the situation in the country.

OMANI DIPLOMAT'S STATEMENT ON SOVIET THREAT SCORED

LD201435 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed "Rejoinder" from S. Chugrov "World Today" roundup: "Wrongly Addressed"]

[Text] Al-Ghazali, Oman's ambassador to Cairo, again told a lie in an interview for the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH: The Soviet Union, he said, is "threatening the shipment of oil in the Strait of Hormuz region."

That is by no means a new statement. The witches' sabbath around the imaginary "Soviet threat" to the Persian Gulf has been going on for many a day, on Washington's initiative. But this time the Omani ambassador's statement in Cairo coincided with the American administration's decision to send 1,800 marines to the Arabian Sea region.

The cool reaction of Persian Gulf countries to plans to insure an American military presence in the region is well known. But obviously some people in Oman are more comfortable under the protection of American bayonets. So they are trying to distort the facts and to use fabrications to conceal the real threat which emanates from the direction of the United States.

VISITING ALGERIAN AIR CHIEF LEAVES MOSCOW

LD131341 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Visit Completed"]

[Text] On 8 February Lt Col B. Moussouni, commander of the Algerian Air Force, who had been in the Soviet Union on an official visit at the invitation of Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov, commander in chief of the air force and USSR deputy defense minister, left Moscow.

At the airport Lt Col B. Moussouni, commander of the Algerian Air Force, was seen off by Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov and Soviet generals and officers. The sendoff party included Layashi Yakir, Algerian ambassador to the USSR, and Lt Col R. Ait-Idir, army, naval and air attache at the Algerian Embassy in Moscow.

GAMBIA MAKING PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LD182152 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The people of the Gambia are marking independence day on Monday. Our observer, Vladlen Mikhaylov, has this comment:

On the eve of this national holiday, the organization for the development of the River Gambia held its ministerial session in Dakar, the capital of neighboring Senegal. The river plays an essential role in the economy of the Gambia. It provides water for rice peanut plantations; it provides the country with fish; it remains the country's main waterway, linking coastal and remote regions.

The Dakar session adopted decisions under which a series of dams in the water reservoirs will be built on the River Gambia. With the realization of this project, the age-old dream of the Gambians, the country will be able to get rid of the constant threat of drought. The building of the first dam in the series is due to begin this year. This project, if realized, will make additional 50,000 hectares of land suitable for cultivation. The hydropower station, when built, will make electricity available for the Gambian capital and will enable the country to get down to the development of the iron ore deposit discovered recently in the eastern part of the Gambia and Senegal.

However, the increase in the price of building materials and monetary upheavals in the Western countries, the main partners of the Gambia, have put the building of the project in jeopardy. Senegal and the Gambia are now urgently looking for additional means to make the plan feasible.

In the past 15 years the courageous Gambian people have had to cope with a great number of difficulties. The devastating Sahel drought is a case in a point. Only the diligent work of the Gambian peasants and the restructuring of the monocultured economy, it is leftover of the colonial past, has made it possible to save the country from hunger and economic bankruptcy.

The Gambia's economy today leans on several new branches, which include foreign tourism, bringing impressive revenues and the processing of farm goods. At present, the fishing industry is being put on an industrial basis. The beginning to this new industry has been set into operation with Soviet experts.

MARITIME SHIPPING AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SEYCHELLES

LD191126 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] An agreement on maritime shipping between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Seychelles has been signed in the capital of the Seychelles Islands, Victoria. At the signing ceremony both sides expressed the unanimous view that the agreement would serve the further strengthening of friendly relations and expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE GREETS PANAMANIAN CP CONGRESS

LD151717 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Text of CPSU Central Committee greetings to the Sixth Panamanian People's Party Congress]

[Text] To the Sixth Congress of the Panamanian People's Party.

Dear comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee sends warm and fraternal greetings to the delegates of the Sixth Congress of the Panamanian People's Party and though them to all Panamanian communists. Your congress is summing up a long and complex stage of the struggle to consolidate and develop the anti-imperialist transformations which began in the country in 1968 and which led an important victory by the Panamanian people--the conclusion of new treaties on the Panama Canal which eliminate a hotbed of colonialism on the territory of your motherland. The Panamanian communists' militant stance is well known, as is their role in defending their country's national interests and in mobilizing the masses against the intrigues of U.S. imperialism and local reaction, which seek to prevent these treaties from being implemented and to reverse the process of socioeconomic transformations in Panama.

Loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism, Panama's communists advocate the cohesion of the international communist movement and revolutionary solidarity with all of Latin America's anti-imperialist forces and with all peoples struggling against dictatorial regimes and for democracy and social progress. In the present complex international situation they resolutely denounce U.S. imperialism's pretensions to world dominion and its desire to impose its will on the peoples, to whip up international tension and to build up the arms race.

The Soviet people hold in high regard your efforts to strengthen friendship between our countries and to disseminate among the masses the truth about the achievements of real socialism and about the CPSU's tireless activity aimed at strengthening peace throughout the world. We wish you, Panamanian comrades, great successes in the struggle for the Panamanian working people's vital interests and for the unity of all progressive and patriotic forces for the sake of your motherland's bright future.

Long live the friendship between our parties and between the Panamanian and Soviet people!

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

CUBAN, SOVIET BROADCAST ORGANIZATIONS SIGN PROTOCOL

LD201118 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting [Gostelradio] and the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT] signed a working protocol in Moscow today on cooperation for 1980-81. It envisages an exchange of programs about the life of the USSR and Cuba and about friendship of the peoples of our countries. Particular attention will be paid to publicizing forthcoming congresses of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba, the 110th anniversary of Lenin's birth and the 35th anniversary of the victory over fascism. On the Soviet side the protocol was signed by Lapin, chairman of USSR Gostelradio, and on the Cuban side by Nivaldo Herrera, president of the ICRT.

PRAVDA REPORTS GROMYKO'S 18 FEB ELECTION SPEECH

LD201225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[TASS report under the rubric "Working People's Election Meetings": "For Peace and Social Progress. Voters' Meeting With A.A. Gromyko"]

[Text] On 18 February the voters of Kaliningradskiy Okrug near Moscow met with their candidate for the RSFSR Supreme Soviet--Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister.

The meeting participants enthusiastically elected an honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev.

V.I. Trubitsyn, first secretary of Kaliningrad CPSU Gorkom, who opened the meeting, K.G. Kiseleva, secretary of the 1 May factory party committee, N.Ya. Pirogov, turner at the machine-building plant, and others spoke of Soviet people's inexorable desire to strengthen the motherland's might through their selfless labor and of the collectives' achievements in the socialist competition to greet in worthy fashion the 110th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth. The candidate's agent--B.I. Morozov, turner in the machine plant--described the candidate's career.

A.A. Gromyko, who was warmly greeted by the meeting participants, delivered a speech.

He expressed profound gratitude to the voters of Moskovskaya Oblast's Kaliningradskiy Electoral Okrug for nominating him candidate for the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

A.A. Gromyko went on to dwell on questions of domestic policy and of fulfilling the national economic plan.

Under the leadership of the CPSU our people have worked selflessly to implement the 25th CPSU Congress' economic and social program. In the past years of the 5-year plan, he said, this has made it possible to take a substantial step forward in developing the national economy, science and culture, improving the people's well-being and strengthening the USSR's defense capability.

The soviets of people's deputies and their multimillion-strong aktiv, A.A. Gromyko stressed, have a prominent place in all the country's state and social life. The soviets' activity is living evidence of socialist democracy's advantages over bourgeois democracy, which, in V.I. Lenin's apt definition, is always narrow, hypocritical and sham and always remains democracy for the rich and an illusion for the poor.

Our people and party are calmly summing up the results of the path that has been traveled, outlining plans for the future and demonstrating their desire for good relations with other peoples, disarmament and peace. The situation is different in the United States. The presidential candidates, the aspiring candidates and even those aspiring to be aspiring candidates are competing with one another in inflaming chauvinist fever.

In so doing they are often losing all political balance in both domestic and foreign affairs and are larding voters with one promise on top of another, of which all that is left afterward is empty phrases.

That is how it comes about that each presidential election campaign turns into virtually a kind of natural disaster in which truth and even mere decency are given little place, to say the least.

Commitments under international agreements are being questioned or crudely violated, the capital of positive deeds in relations between states previously accumulated or inherited from previous presidents is being squandered. That is the way the notorious American democracy turns out.

It is recognized throughout the world that, despite the ebb and flow of the detente policy, an important change for the better occurred in international relations in the last decade, in the seventies. It was possible to achieve much in the international arena. The main result is that Soviet people have been living and working under conditions of peace for more than 30 years now.

This historic achievement became possible primarily thanks to the fact that the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries placed their mighty potential on the scales of peace.

The ties of friendship and socialist internationalism linking the countries of our community are constantly strengthening. The summit meetings between the leaders of the fraternal parties and countries make a tremendous contribution to this.

The Warsaw Pact reliably safeguards the security of its members, and there is no doubt that the Warsaw Pact's 25th anniversary in May will develop into a demonstration of the fraternal countries' cohesion and of their determination firmly to pursue a policy of peace and of opposition to the forces of aggression.

It was precisely thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union, which is implementing the peace program of the 25th CPSU Congress, and the efforts of our friends and allies--efforts which have met with the support of other peace-loving states--that a new phenomenon emerged in international politics in the early seventies: the relaxation of tension.

A number of international documents containing a form of rules for interstate relations saw the light of day. The most weighty of these is the Final Act of the all-European conference, which is to serve the cause of peaceful cooperation among the peoples of Europe.

Definite limits were imposed on one of the most dangerous directions of the arms race.

An important and major step on this path was the signing of the Soviet-American SALT II treaty last year. Unfortunately, this new treaty has still not come into force in view of the fact that it is opposed by influential U.S. circles which adhere to positions of continuing the arms race, including the strategic arms race. This is having an impact on all U.S. foreign policy. The tone is increasingly being set here by those forces which adhere to positions of militarism and expansion.

Nevertheless, there is every reason to say that detente is too firmly embedded in the fabric of international relations and has too many supporters in the world for one country to be able to monopolize resolving the question of its fate. Despite the trials to which it is being subjected, detente is alive and breathing in defiance of the American administration's current attempts to toll the funeral knell for it.

Under conditions of dwingling tension in the world the processes of the peoples' revolutionary and liberation struggle in various parts of the world have run and are running their natural course, and they--these processes--are inexorable.

Against the background of flareups of tension and conflict situations in different parts of Asia one should single out such an important factor for stability and peace as the Soviet Union's relations with the great Asian country of India. There is every reason to state that good possibilities exist for developing the two countries' cooperation in the interests of strengthening peace on the Asian Continent and throughout the world on the basis of the Soviet-Indian friendship and cooperation treaty. This is cooperation in the interests of peace, and no one must fear it, no country pursuing peaceful goals.

The strengthening of the socialist community's international positions, the successes of the peoples' national liberation movement, the development of detente into the dominant trend in the development of international relations--all this ran counter to the line in international affairs of the most aggressive imperialist circles.

At the turn of the seventies a turn in Washington's policy toward cold war once again revealed itself, the minister went on to say. This turn began long before the Afghan events, which have given rise to an outburst of political hysterics in the United States which has assumed particularly ugly forms in the context of the presidential election campaign.

Back in May 1978 NATO adopted a decision on an automatic annual increase in military spending by the bloc's members through the end of this century. The arms race policy also found expression in the recent NATO decision--also adopted, incidentally, before the Afghan events--on the production and deployment of American medium-range nuclear-missile weapons in certain West European countries. Both decisions were made under U.S. pressure.

At the same time the United States has proclaimed a new program providing for a sharp increase in its armaments.

The common goal of all these actions is clear: to break the existing approximate parity of military might between East and West and the Soviet Union and the United States and to attempt to achieve superiority over the socialist community. The White House is evidently not overly concerned here with the question of whether or not this is feasible.

We have frequently stated--and at the most authoritative level--that we will not tolerate this. L.I. Brezhnev told the U.S. President this in Vienna. The Soviet Union's ability to stand up for its legitimate interests will continue to be duly maintained.

Those who determine the foreign policy of the United States and its NATO allies camouflage their goals with fabrications about Soviet foreign policy. In particular fabrications are being heaped one on top of another concerning our aid to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The failure of their plans with regard to Afghanistan and its transformation into a U.S. military bridgehead was taken very hard by people across the Atlantic.

The world today knows well the chain of events in and around Afghanistan, and their sequence. Some people in the U.S. capital still will not collect their shattered nerves. And that is wrong. They would do better to tend them. These words should be applied in particular to those who invariably address the Soviet Union in a cocky manner.

The Soviet Union has not had and does not have any goals other than assisting the Afghans to repulse outside aggression. L. I. Brezhnev recently explained this issue in depth. The Soviet Union will do as his explanations stated.

In an attempt to mislead people and to touch up the facade of its own policy the U.S. administration is persistently trying to argue that the Soviet Union and its actions in rendering aid to neighboring Afghanistan to repulse aggression are pursuing some dark designs with respect to the oil regions of the Near and Middle East.

Those who resort to this know that it is a crude, vulgar story blatantly designed to conceal their own plans and to seize an even firmer hold than before of the countries with oil resources--and essentially to lay hands on these resources.

From the first days of its existence the Soviet state has not encroached on the oil or other resources of other states and peoples. But as far as the United States is concerned, its service record, if we flick through the pages of history, is different. The Arabs, the Iranians and the peoples of many other countries, including those of Latin America, are well aware of this.

U.S. policy attests that people there are sometimes bad at drawing a distinction between what is theirs and what belongs to others. What is dangerous is the fact that this is already becoming a habit. They speak, for instance, of Iranian oil as if they were discussing the fate of their own backyard. They talk about Arab oil sources as if they were on the outskirts of the United States.

But what right does the United States of America have to other people's sources of oil, other people's wealth? What right does it have to threaten to use force against other countries, not to mention the use of such force to acquire these countries' resources? It has no such right.

U.S. officials and propaganda institutions have recently been constantly alleging that the Soviet Union has done nothing other than decide to break through to some warm seas and oceans. It has simply decided to do so and that's that, as they say! The Soviet Union has already more than once rejected this fabrication which, incidentally, was put into circulation in the West long ago, at the time of the Russian tsars and tsarinas. Today too it is totally apposite to say on this subject that it is not the USSR which is seeking an outlet to warm waters--it has sufficient outlets to both warm and cold waters--but the imperialists themselves who want to expand the sphere of their military presence in regions many thousands of kilometers from their own territory.

Why, if not to achieve these goals, is the United States creating a "quick-reaction corps"--imperialist policy's **big billy** club of our time? Why else is the United States stepping up its military preparations in the Indian Ocean zone, sending an armada to cruise in and near the Persian Gulf and extending its strategic military base on Diego Garcia Island, while feverishly seeking sites for organizing new military bases there?

In a word, the same handwriting is visible in the fabrication about our intention of forcing a way through to warm seas as in the question of oil. They take their own plans and aspirations and attribute them to the Soviet Union.

The assertion is current in Washington that some kind of arc of crisis and tension has emerged, embracing Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, the Near East, South Yemen, Ethiopia and certain other countries. I do not know where they found this arc and whether it exists at all, geographically speaking. But one thing is clear--all this is the fruit of a sick imagination.

Recently Washington has been yielding increasingly to the temptation to play the "China card." This is a risky game for those who start it; but it is also dangerous for the cause of peace. Peace-loving states must draw the appropriate conclusions from this for their policy and their security, and they will do so.

And surely Washington is exposing itself in its policy with respect to Iran? For decades the United States supported the shah's regime, sent huge arms consignments into Iran and tried to turn it into a hostile bridgehead against the Soviet Union and other neighboring states.

Nothing helped. The result was a gaping hole in American foreign policy. The Iranian people carried out a revolution and shook off the imperialist yoke.

From the first the Soviet Union came out in support of the Iranian revolution. It stated that it did not intend to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. At the same time it came out resolutely against any outside interference in Iranian affairs by anyone at all.

Our country adheres firmly to a line of consolidating good neighborliness and developing equal and mutually advantageous cooperation with Iran. Events in Iran are its internal affair and nobody outside has the right to interfere.

Massive propaganda is now being directed at Iran with a view to proving that it should forget the sins of the United States--blackmail, threats, insults and humiliation--and open the doors again for a U.S. military, economic and political return to Iran. This propaganda is invariably larded with a good dose of enmity toward the USSR. But it must be supposed that people in Iran know very well why this is being done.

There is now an abundance of speeches to be heard in Washington containing assurances that the United States is Islam's most devoted friend, the friend of the Muslim states. But can they seriously believe that the Islamic countries have forgotten the constant hostility displayed for decades by the authors of American foreign policy with respect to those countries?

Who occupies to this day a sharply anti-Arab position on the question of the Israeli-occupied Arab lands? Who is creating obstacles on the path to a just Near East settlement? The United States.

Who is slighting the 4-million-strong Arab population of Palestine, driven from their lands by Israel, and categorically objecting to the implementation of their legitimate right to create their own independent state? Washington.

Who, every time the Muslim states try to take full possession of the natural resources that belong to them and dispose of them according to their own discretion, starts threatening them, even threatening to use force to make them succumb to the will of American monopolies ever ready to trample on the right of any people if this right is at odds with their appetites. This is what the United States is doing as it currently pretends to be a friend of Islam.

The same should be said of the attempts to portray the Soviet Union as an opponent of the Islamic states. Since the days immediately following Great October the annals of Soviet foreign policy have spoken for themselves. The Soviet state's attitude toward the Muslim world is indicated by the appeal to all working Muslims in Russia and the East wherein Lenin wrote the following: "You must be the masters of your country.... You have this right for your destiny is in your own hands."

The Soviet Union has been and still is a friend of the peoples of the East, a friend of the peoples of the Muslim world.

Our policy is a principled one. It has no false bottom.

In his 4 February speech, which had an exceptionally broad and positive international impact, L.I. Brezhnev said: "The peoples of the world now have a common concern--to overcome the tension that is once again clouding international relations. Detente is the result of multifaceted efforts, it is the common achievement of peace-loving states. And reckless imperialist forces cannot be permitted to ruin its fruits." L.I. Brezhnev went on to stress: "Any road is acceptable and desirable as far as we are concerned if it leads to lasting peace."

The Soviet Union believes that all the talks in the sphere of curbing the arms race and disarmament which have been started in recent years at various international forums and on a bilateral basis but which, for some reason or other, have now been stopped or postponed must be resumed and continued. The Soviet Union is ready to conduct them on a constructive basis.

We confirm our readiness to sit down at the relevant negotiating tables to discuss questions of disarmament relating to Europe if the NATO decision on medium-range American nuclear missiles in Europe is revoked or if, at least, its implementation is officially halted. This position of ours is known to the NATO countries.

The convening of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe would be in keeping with the interests of reducing military confrontation on our continent.

We will also continue the quest for accords at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armaments and armed forces in central Europe which have now resumed.

The Soviet Union will promote--as far as it can--the successful work of the meeting scheduled for Madrid this fall of representatives of the countries which participated in the all-European conference.

And finally, our country has advocated and still advocates resolutely that no road or path in its bilateral relations with other states should become overgrown.

There are no disputed issues of interstate relations, no major international problem which we would not be prepared to discuss at honest talks, at talks on equal terms.

The foreign policy course proclaimed in the decisions of CPSU congresses and enshrined in the USSR Constitution is unshakable and nobody can deflect us from this proven course.

The party and its Leninist headquarters--the Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by L.I. Brezhnev--enjoy the highest respect and prestige among the people. Soviet people regard outstanding modern-day state and political figure and leader of our party and people Leonid Ilich Brezhnev with warmth, cordiality and love.

It is with a sense of great satisfaction that I convey to you and all working people of the okrug best wishes from Leonid Ilich for success in labor and personal well-being.

These words were greeted with tumultuous, prolonged applause.

On entering the eighties, A.A. Gromyko said in conclusion, the Soviet people view the future with confidence. They have every reason to do so: The reasons can be found in the party's assured domestic and foreign policy and the entire people's undivided support for this policy.

ADDITIONS TO PRAVDA VERSION OF GROMYKO ELECTION SPEECH

The following additions to the item entitled "PRAVDA Reports Gromyko's 18 Feb Election Speech" published in the 21 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT page R 1 are taken from Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 February page 2:

Page R 2, paragraph 8, IZVESTIYA reads: ...of the arms race. In 1972 the interim agreement on the limitation of the strategic offensive arms was signed between the USSR and the United States....

Page R 2, last paragraph, IZVESTIYA adds the following additional passage: Many of the developing and nonalined countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have appreciably strengthened their independence. Their weight in international affairs has increased....

Page R 3, paragraph 5, IZVESTIYA reads: ...in its armaments. It was precisely in the atmosphere of this militarist bacchanalia that Washington first delayed and then postponed ratification of the SALT II treaty...

Page R 5, paragraph 2, IZVESTIYA reads: ...off the imperialist yoke. And now that they are taking the first steps in the direction of consolidating their independence, friends of the shah's regime are resorting to direct threats against Iran....

Page R 5, paragraph 9, penultimate line, IZVESTIYA reads: ...with their appetites? Who it might be said, held a knife to Iran's throat and is maintaining a strong naval force on its threshold in an attempt to break its resistance to foreign diktat and to reharness it to the foreign yoke?

LEADERS CITE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES IN ELECTION SPEECHES

Shcherbitskiy Comments

LD141650 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Dneprodzerzhinsk, February 14, TASS--"Our aims are clear and lofty--lasting peace and security, mutually advantageous cooperation. The CPSU's peaceloving foreign policy has the unanimous approval and full support of the Soviet people, and the appreciation of all peace champions, all-sober-minded people on earth. That is why we look into the future with optimism no matter how the imperialists rave," stated member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine Vladimir Shcherbitskiy at his meeting today with the voters who nominated him candidate for election as deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine. The elections will be held on February 24th. "All people of goodwill cannot but be concerned by the aggravation of the international situation resultant of the desire of militaristic and reactionary circles to intensify the arms race, to change the alignment of forces in their favour, and their attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries", Shcherbitskiy said. "Soviet people, the progressive and peaceloving forces of the whole world wrathfully brand with infamy the adventuristic course pursued by the present American administration, a course hostile to the cause of detente and leading to a growth of the war danger."

"The U.S. President's speech in Congress on January 23rd showed that the ruling circles have decided to regain for the country the dubious fame of a world policeman. It is absolutely clear that the turn to the course that is hostile to the interests of detente, a course directed at a new spiral of the arms race has occured in American politics long before the events in Afghanistan around which the Western and Beijing propagandists are piling up mountains of lies", the candidate for election said.

"Against the background of the political adventurism of the White House leaders the firm, principled and consistent position of the Soviet state, its balanced reaction to the frantic, rash statements and actions of the West appear weighty and authoritative," Shcherbitskiy stressed. "As it befits a great power, the Soviet Union proceeds in its policy not from narrowly understood momentary advantage or emotional outbursts, but from the supreme interests of its people and state, which objectively coincide with the cardinal interests of the peoples of the world, with the interests of the peaceful and progressive development of human civilization."

"Nobody should have any doubts that the Soviet Union will further be able to stand up for its lawful national interests and the interests of its allies and friends," Vladimir Shcherbitskiy said. "The policy of detente is now being subjected to severe trials. But our state's foreign policy course remains unchanged. As before, it combines consistent love of peace with firm rebuff to aggression and resolute struggle against the hegemonic ambitions of the imperialist powers and China. Together with the fraternal socialist countries we will further strive for the relaxation of tension to remain the leading tendency in relations with other states, and take measures to insure international security."

Chernenko Criticism of U.S.

ID151636 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 15, TASS--The essence of Soviet democracy lies in that the Soviet people are building their society themselves, building it for themselves and managing it themselves, said member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko today speaking before his electorate. He has been nominated candidate to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation by the Kuybyshev District of Moscow.

Speaking about the successes of the Soviet economy in the last four years of the five-year period (1976-1980) the speaker pointed out: "We consistently, step by step, are proceeding along the charted path aimed at an increasingly fuller satisfaction of the material and spiritual requirements of the working people."

Dwelling on the issues of the CPSU's foreign policy activities, Konstantin Chernenko said that the recent years have been marked by major successes of the Leninist foreign policy of the USSR. They testify to the realism of the peace programme elaborated by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses and show that the tasks mapped out are well substantiated.

The choice in favor of the policy of detente and cooperation was made by us long ago with reliance on the firm conviction that a reasonable alternative to this option just did not exist, the speaker said. The Soviet Union has not deviated even by an inch from this course.

The present complication of the international situation was needed by influential circles of the United States, and it is they, and nobody else, that created it, the speaker said. The tensions in the world were also personally needed by President Carter who hopes to defeat his adversaries in the presidential election campaign by riding the crest of chauvinism and anti-communist hysteria in the United States. The elections are an individual affair of each country, but what Carter is doing is to reverse many years back relations between states, he is pulling the world into the maelstrom of the cold war which is an even more adventurist design than was the case under some of his predecessors.

Life has a way of putting things right. It will also assign a fitting place also to those who in the United States and other countries, would like to engage in an ungrateful activity--to teach others how to live. There is no doubt that Carter or others will not be successful in their attempts to remodel the world and the peoples thereof of their liking. Times have changed as has also the alignment of forces in the world.

In the present-day complex situation it is important to keep a cool and calm head. The aggressive forces would very much wish us to respond in kind, with a similar ruthlessness. The Soviet Union shall be able to defend its interests, the interests of our allies and friends, and to defend them fittingly--convincingly and resolutely, Chernenko said. Nobody must have any doubts on that score. However, we shall not deviate from the general course of peace and friendship between peoples, of excluding wars from the life of mankind, a course bequeathed to us by Lenin. And we reiterate today that we associate our expectations and our plans not with subjugation of other peoples to our will, but rather with cooperation with them, with insuring, through honest, equal negotiations, political settlements to the difficult problems existing between states.

In conclusion, Konstantin Chernenko said that the Soviet people are preparing to come to the elections full of optimism, confident of the future and with a clear awareness of their responsibility for the destinies of peace and socialism.

Kunayev: Carter to Blame

ID161134 Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Alma-Ata, February 16, TASS--"All creative activities of the Leninist party convincingly proved that we did not have, do not have, nor will have interests higher than the interests of honest working people, indissoluble brotherhood of the Soviet peoples, firm and irreversible world peace," Dinmukhamed Kunayev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, said today. He spoke in the village of Bakanas, near Alma-Ata, at a meeting with electors who proposed his candidature to Kazakhstan's Supreme Soviet. The elections will be held on February 24.

"The working people of Kazakhstan, as well as all Soviet people, actively support the wise domestic and foreign policy of the party and the government aimed at the further consolidation of the socialist community, genuine detente," the speaker stressed.

"The new peace initiatives and practical steps of the Soviet Union became a principled contribution to the cause of real detente. The Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU corresponds to the vital interests of all the peoples of the world by its profound realisms, loyalty to the principles of justice and honesty.

"At the same time, highly evaluating the successes of our country in foreign policy, we should not forget about the machinations of the world reaction, to which Leonid Brezhnev directly indicated answering questions put by a PRAVDA correspondent."

"The actions of the White House administration and U.S. President Carter have considerably deteriorated the international climate in the recent time.

American imperialism, doing its utmost, accelerating the arms race, ascribing to us aggressive intentions, is trying to seriously complicate the international situation with the help of its satellites and top Beijing leadership," Dinmukhamed Kunayev said. "Use is being made of lies and slander, direct and indirect pressure, unprecedented blackmail, economic and other sanctions. Our 'opponents' are seeking to dictate their conditions even in such a field as sports. It is not difficult to see that all these actions pursue one goal--so to say, to scare [us], to distort the essence and substance of our international aid to Afghanistan, to compel us to veer away from the consistent and principled Leninist course in foreign policy. Such calculations are futile. They are doomed to failure, no matter who their author might be."

Suslov: USSR Strengthening Defense

LD201420 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 20 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tolyatti, February 20, TASS--The growth of the CPSU's guiding and directing role is an objective law of the Soviet Union's social development, Mikhail Suslov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said today when addressing his electorate. He is standing for election to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in the Avtozavodskiy Constituency of Kuybishev Region (Volga Valley). Basing itself on the historic creativity of the masses, the CPSU is confidently advancing along the Leninist course, the speaker stressed. The party is guided by the Central Committee which is headed by the outstanding party leader and statesman, a true continuer of the great Lenin's cause--Leonid Brezhnev. The candidate deputy spoke in detail about the achievements in the Russian Federation's economic development. All that has been accomplished since the time of the previous elections to improve the life of working people--perfection of working and living conditions, extensive housing construction, development of education and culture, improvement of the people's health protection--all this, Suslov stressed, was achieved thanks to the selfless work of the Soviet people and the implementation of the CPSU's policy.

Turning to foreign policy matters Mikhail Suslov said: "The party's Central Committee, the Soviet Government have exerted tremendous efforts in recent years for the development and strengthening of the relaxation of international tension. The coordinated foreign policy of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community, the struggle of all peace-loving forces to improve the international climate have brought their positive results. The practice of international relations has confirmed the well-foundedness and effectiveness of the foreign policy course of the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses."

The past years witnessed a further deepening of the cooperation of the fraternal socialist countries. The positions of socialism in the world are steadily strengthening. The change of the alignment of forces in favour of socialism has created favourable conditions for the upsurge of the liberation struggle of the peoples. Major victories were scored in recent years by forces of national liberation and social progress in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"The progressive changes in the world, the growth of the strength and influence of real socialism evoke the furious resistance of the imperialist reaction which regards this as a threat to its aggressive designs and plans to intensify the exploitation of the peoples.

"The imperialist reaction," the speaker said, "is doing everything to impede the strivings of the peoples for peace, social progress and independence. A special role here belongs to the imperialism of the United States, first of all its military-industrial circles which in the whipping up of militaristic psychosis are looking for a possibility of making new multi-billion profits on the arms race. Lately they have aggravated the international situation."

The decision adopted by NATO late in 1979 on the deployment in Western Europe of new American nuclear-missile systems aimed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries is an attempt to achieve military superiority, to change in its favor the existing approximate parity of the armed forces of countries of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty. Such measures by NATO states as the totally unjustified drastic increase of military budgets, adoption of new long-term armaments programmes, deployment of new military bases and concentration of big military contingents in direct proximity of the Soviet Union's borders, the decision on the creation in the United States of the so-called "quick reaction corps" for armed interference wherever the peoples refuse to succumb to U.S. diktat--all this is directed at aggravating international tension, against the cause of peace and the security of peoples.

"The U.S. Government resorted to a direct violation of a whole number of treaties, inter-governmental agreements and accords reached in the 1970's between the USSR and the United States. It acted thus, for instance, in respect of the SALT-II treaty. Ratification and implementation of this treaty would have opened the road to progress in such an important matter as the limitation of armaments, and disarmament. By his decision to freeze indefinitely the Senate debate on the SALT II treaty President Carter directly violated his promises and assurances."

"The actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism and reaction manifested themselves particularly patently in connection with the events in Iran and Afghanistan," Mikhail Suslov stressed. "Imperialism uses any means to intensify interference in the internal affairs of Iran with the aim of ensuring its selfish interests. Our government, on the contrary, invariably comes out for the development of good-neighborly relations with Iran on the basis of equality, respect of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. We will adhere to this principled position in the future as well."

After the liberation revolution in Afghanistan the combined forces of reaction launched vigorous subversive activities against its people, started actually an undeclared war against that country with the aim of stifling the revolution and using the territory of Afghanistan for provocations against the Soviet Union. The assistance in the struggle against external aggression that was provided by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan on the request of its leadership was used by the Government of the United States as a pretext for launching a campaign of blackmail, slander and threats against our country.

"But the Soviet people will not be intimidated," Suslov said. "The American Government's actions will inflict damage first of all to the United States itself. The dangerous zig-zags in U.S. policy undermine the prestige of that big power of which the peoples expect a more balanced and responsible policy."

By its adventuristic actions the United States wants to stop the process of the improvement of relations of socialist countries with countries of Western Europe, and is trying for this purpose to twist the arms of its West European allies. "We hope, however, that the governments of these states will display the necessary farsightedness and sense of balance, the speaker said, because all the peoples of our continent are equally interested in the development of detente, in strengthening trust, cooperation, peace and security in Europe."

In the complex international conditions the Soviet Union's policy remains principled and consistent. We will further press for an improvement of the political climate on earth, pursue the policy of peace and friendship among peoples. Following the principle of the equal security of the sides, we will strengthen our country's defences so that the peaceful work of Soviet people would be as always reliably protected. It is our position that honest equal talks should be conducted along all directions of inter-state relations, including with the aim of stopping the arms race.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are doing everything to prevent the forces of the imperialist aggression and reaction from returning the world to the cold war and burying international detente, Suslov said. We are convinced as before that detente is a demand of the time and that international reaction will not succeed in casting it away.

Detente is the will of the peoples. It is supported by mighty forces in the whole world, including in the leading capitalist countries as well. On its part the Soviet Union will consistently implement the Leninist policy of peace.

CPSU, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTEND VUZ CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

LD151615 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 February 1980 carries on page 3 a 2,000-word TASS report entitled "Soviet VUZes' New Heights" on an 8 February session of the all-union conference of VUZ staff held in Moscow which discussed ways of resolving tasks arising from the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Further Developing Higher Education and Improving the Quality of Specialists' Training." The report states that: "The following participated in concluding session's work: M.V. Zimyanin, CPSU Central Committee secretary; V.F. Shauro, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Department; and T. Ya. Kiselev, G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers."

INTERIOR MINISTER ADDRESSES MOSCOW LAW, ORDER CONFERENCE

LD191239 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "Guarding Law and Order"]

[Text] Leaders of all subdepartments of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Internal Affairs [GUVD] met at the GUVD Culture Center yesterday. They summed up the results of work in the past year of 1979 and outlined plans for successfully implementing the demands of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Improving Work on Protecting Law and Order and Stepping Up the Fight Against Crime." Maj Gen V.P. Trushin, chief of the GUVD, delivered a report. Army General N.A. Shchelokov, USSR minister of internal affairs, spoke at the conference. The following took part in the conference's work: V.F. Promyslov, chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom; N.M. Ponomarev, secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom; V.V. Shiryayev, chairman of Moscow City People's Control Committee; A.I. Kostenko, deputy chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom; A.A. Sputnov, chief of Moscow CPSU Gorkom Administrative Organs Department; and officers of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry and the Moscow courts and prosecution service.

REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PLEDGES FOR 1980 IN ENERGY, AGRICULTURE

LD201513 [Editorial Report LD] USSR Russian-language newspapers carry reports of republican-level socialist pledges of economic performance adopted for 1980, containing commitments to achieve output targets in the energy and agriculture spheres including the following:

Ukraine (Moscow PRAVDA 2 February page one):

Standard fuel	2.9 million tons
Electricity	4.2 billion kilowatt-hours
Thermal energy	6.6 million gigacalories
Grain (harvested)	53 million tons
Grain (sold to state)	1.10 billion puds
Sugar beet (sold)	250,000 tons
Sugar beet (yield)	30 quintals per hectare
Sunflower seed (procured)	2,505,00 tons
Potatoes (procured)	3.21 million tons
Vegetables (procured)	5.02 million tons
Livestock and poultry (sold)	3.73 million tons
Wool (sold)	30,010 tons
Milk (sold)	14.04 million tons
Eggs (sold)	8.51 billions

Kazakhstan (Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 31 January page one):

Coal (above plan)	1.2 million tons
Oil (above plan)	70,000 tons
Gas (above plan)	16 million cubic meters
Grain crops (area)	at least 25 million hectares
Grain (total production)	27-28 million tons
Sugar beet (sold)	2.42 million tons
Vegetables (sold)	720,00 tons
Potatoes (sold)	460,000 tons
Cotton (sold)	340,000 tons

Georgia (Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA 30 January page one):

Savings in energy expenditure in 1980 compared with fixed normatives:

Boiler and furnace fuel	
In fall-winter period	5 percent at least
In whole year	3-5 percent
Gasoline and diesel	
In fall-winter	5 percent at least
In whole year	2-3 percent
Electricity	
In fall-winter	5 percent at least
In whole year	3-4 percent

Agricultural output:

Gross output of agricultural Produce (total value for year)	R2.2 billion

Total state purchases:

Grain	182,000 tons
Sugar beet	138,000 tons
Potatoes	170,000 tons
Vegetables	332,000 tons
Meat	145,000 tons
Milk	283,000 tons
Eggs	476 millions

Azerbaijan (Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 27 January pages 1, 2):

Gas extraction	112 million cubic meters above plan
"Fuel"	25,000 tons above plan

Refinery output:

Diesel fuel	10,000 tons above plan
Gasoline	5,000 tons above plan
Aviation kerosene	10,000 tons above plan

Savings in power industry:

Standard fuel	15,000 tons
Electricity	10 million kilowatt-hours

Total agricultural output:

Sold to state:

Grain	280,000 tons
Cotton	605,000 tons
Vegetables	575,000 tons
Livestock and poultry	121,000 tons
Milk	305,000 tons
Eggs	262 millions
Coarse fodder	2,426,000 tons (procured)
Farm-produced concentrated fodder	245,000 tons at least

Tadzhikistan (Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA 27 January page one):

Oil	at least 1,000 tons above plan
Natural gas	at least 6 million cubic meters above plan
Coal	at least 25,000 tons above plan
Cotton (produced and sold)	903,000 tons
Grain (harvested)	300,000 tons
Grain (sold to state)	60,000 tons
Including rice	13,500 tons
Vegetables (harvested)	212,000 tons
Potatoes (harvested)	93,000 tons
Meat (liveweight sold to state)	96,000 tons
Milk (sold)	248,000 tons
Eggs (sold)	285 million

Moldavia (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA 29 January page one):

Energy savings:

Boiler and furnace fuel	110,000 tons
Electricity	95 million kilowatt-hours

Total agricultural sales to state:

Grain	1,005,000 tons
Sunflowers	280,000 tons
Sugar	3,705,000 tons
Vegetables	1,151,000 tons
Meat	321,000 tons
Milk	861,000 tons
Eggs	571 millions
Wool	2,000 tons

Latvia (Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA 3 February page one):

Total agricultural sales to state:

Milk	1,561,000 tons
Livestock and poultry	374,000 tons
Grain (procured)	281,000 tons
Potatoes (procured)	276,000 tons
Sugar beet (procured)	271,000 tons
Grass meal	46,000 tons
Eggs	515 millions

Energy savings:

Boiler and furnace fuel	65,000 standard tons
Diesel	31,000 tons
Gasoline	26,000 tons
Electricity	140 million kilowatt-hours
Thermal energy	321,000 gigacalories

Turkmenistan (Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 3 February pages 1, 2):

Oil	31,200 tons above plan
Gas	600 million cubic meters above plan

(No pledges listed for Turkmen agriculture)

Armenia (YEREVAN KOMMUNIST 5 February pages 1, 2):

Energy savings:

Electricity	158 million kilowatt-hours
Boiler and furnace fuel	78,400 standard tons
Gasoline	22,000 tons
Diesel	6,400 tons

Total Agricultural sales to state:

Grain	51,000 tons
Vegetables	316,000 tons
Potatoes	86,000 tons

Sugar beet	125,000 tons
Milk	293,000 tons
Meat	108,000 tons
Eggs	291 millions

Estonia (Moscow IZVESTIYA 7 February page two):

Gross harvests:

Grain	1.3 million tons
Potatoes	1.3 million tons

Sales to state:

Vegetables	65,000 tons
Livestock and poultry	266,000 tons
Milk	1,166,000 tons
Eggs	341 millions

Energy savings:

Electricity	86 million kilowatt-hours
Thermal energy	283 gigcarories (as published: perhaps meaning 283,000)
Standard fuel	156,000 tons

Agriculture, sales to the state:

Grain	355,000 tons
Potatoes	255,000 tons
Sugar beet	702,000 tons
Vegetables	105,000 tons
Livestock and poultry	622,000 tons
Milk	2,065,000 tons
Eggs	503 millions

Energy savings:

Boiler and furnace fuel	133,000 standard tons
Diesel	24,700 tons
Gasoline	32,000 tons
Electricity	161 million kilowatt-hours
Thermal energy	434,000 gigacalories

Uzbekistan (Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA 30 January pages 2, 3, 4):

Gas extraction	100 million cubic meters above plan
Coal extraction	110,000 tons above plan

Energy savings:

Electricity	391 million kilowatt-hours
Thermal energy	776,000 gigacalories
Standard fuel	264,000 tons

(Agricultural figures not listed).

RADUGA COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED 20 FEB

LD211042 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 21, TASS--The latest in the series of communications satellites, Raduga was launched in the Soviet Union on 20 February, under the program for the further development of communications systems and television broadcasting by means of artificial earth satellites.

Raduga has relay systems on board for providing in centimeter wave band uninterrupted round-the-clock telephone and telegraph radio communications and simultaneous transmission of color and black-and-white programs of USSR Central Television to the Orbita network of stations.

The Raduga satellite was launched into circular orbit with the initial parameters: distance from earth's surface--36,610 km; period of rotation around earth--24 hours 38 minutes; inclination of orbit--0.4 degrees.

The apparatus of the satellite is working normally.

The satellite has the international registration index Stationar-2.

OFFICIAL DESCRIBES TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM

LD201330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0030 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Summary] Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, first deputy minister of communications, comments on the new television switching center at Ostankino:

The new switching center near the Ostankino Television Tower in Moscow routes central TV transmissions to the Far East and east, central and west Siberia, Central Asia and the European part of the USSR. It also handles televised reports from Soviet and foreign correspondents. Any of these reach the viewer via the Molniya Raduga, Ekran and Gorizont satellites with the aid of several space communication centers near Moscow. The Gorizont satellites, which have been operational for only a short period, are already handling a heavy workload. In connection with this series, the Moskva Space Communications System and its ground stations, which are only slightly more complex than the Ekran system, are going into service. The Ekran series has proved very good for coverage of Siberia from the Arctic to the Mongolian border and from the Ob to the Lena.

In addition to television transmissions, the Gorizont handles telephone and telegraph communications between the Far East, Siberia and the European part of the country, and photocopy transmission of twelve central newspapers, including PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA, to Khabarovsk, Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. This means that PRAVDA is read about 6 hours earlier in Krasnoyarsk than in Moscow.

In preparation for the Olympics some 20 more television program channels will be set up for transmitting to various countries. For this we are putting together a system comprising Soviet and international satellites to bring the events to about 2 billion viewers worldwide.

Slogans incomprehensible to simple people and far removed from the real situation in the country were advanced. This not only undermined the masses' enthusiasm but also their trust in the leadership. Some were frightened away from the regime, others driven into the camp of its enemies. The republic's leaders are now trying to establish an efficient, calm rhythm of life in the country and to create conditions for the formation of a broad national front uniting the various strata of the population in its ranks.

This task is not simple. Afghanistan is an extraordinarly complex country in terms of the ethnic and religious composition of its inhabitants and has both friendly and hostile neighbors. For instance, of its popul tion of 15 million (18 million according to some figures) about 3 million are "kuchi"-nomads. They live in harsh desert areas where there is little water, vegetation is sparse and there are no roads. In the fall they advance along the narrow high mountain paths in long caravans from north to south to protect their livestock from the cold on new pastures, sometimes located on Pakistani territory. In early spring the return journey to the north begins. Afghanistan also has many remote hamlets lost among the mountains cut off for months from other parts of the country where central power "does not reach" and the word of the mullah or tribal elder acquires the force of law. And how many years will be needed to teach people to read and write? After all, 80 percent of Afghans according to some figures--as much as 90 percent, according to others--are illiterate.

In addition together with economic and cultural tasks the problem of safeguarding security is also acute. In Badakhshan, Pakhtya, Nangarhar and a number of other provinces gangs of bandits trained at military bases in Pakistan are active. For instance, Pakhtya is a province from which timber is transported 200 km to Kabul. The saboteurs sometimes derail the vehicles carrying fuel and intimidate peasants and merchants. Fruit, vegetables and various consumer goods are brought to the capital via Jalalabad. Here too bandits are indulging in their crimes. Kabul is a peaceful city but occasionally a treacherous shot does ring out even here. "Above all it is essential to quash the resistance of the murderers, plunderers and hirelings of imperialism who are hindering the delivery of goods to the cities and villages," a recent Revolutionary Council statement says. "They must be destroyed so that all corners of the country become secure."

The Revolutionary Council has called on the people "to fight the murderers, sabotuers and thieves by creating voluntary detachments which together with army and police units must defend the roads, bridges, mountain passes and transport caravans. They must safeguard the villages and cities and the country's honor and dignity." The introduction into Afghanistan, at its government's request, of a limited contingent of Soviet troops has created favorable external conditions for the country. But within it there is still much to be done to establish a peaceful life and to put the economic mechanism into full operation.

LONDON TIMES REPORTER REFUTES VOA STORY OF KABUL FIGHTING

LD201339 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Skosyrev report from S. Chugrov roundup " The Day Worldwide": under the rubric "Beware, Misinformation!": "An Eyewitness Against the Slanderers"]

[Text] The British press is attentively following events in Afghanistan, our correspondent V. Skosyrev reports from London.

A correspondent of London's THE TIMES went out onto the balcony of the hotel where he was staying in Kabul. He was holding a transistor radio tuned to the Voice of America. The correspondent heard: "Fighting is taking place in Kabul. Afghan soldiers are fighting Soviets in Fort Bala Hissar, the center of the Afghan capital."

Naturally I directed my gaze toward the fortress, the correspondent writes. The brown stone walls of the fort, rising on a hill, were clearly visible. No smoke or fire hung over them. You could now hear car horns in nearby districts. There was no fighting. All was calm in Bala Hissar and also in the city. There were no troops in the streets.

Without beating about the bush, the Voice of America was carrying rubbish. And this is not the only occasion when the American radio station, feeding on rumors, has created a fuss about nothing, the correspondent notes.

Discussing the origins of current events, the correspondent describes Amin, who was overthrown by the Afghan revolution, as a repulsive dictator and expresses a certain perplexity over the fact that the present military regime in neighboring Pakistan, which has made itself known as a ruthless dictatorship, has begun to enjoy the West's blessing.

The bourgeois newsman would not be himself if he did not "balance" his admissions with a decent dose of fabrications. All the same, grains of truth about the present situation in Afghanistan, which are so rare in the "big" British press, have seen the light of day for once.

AFGHAN STUDENTS IN USSR REFUTE LONDON TIMES ALLEGATIONS

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[Text] Tula, Central Russia, February 20, TASS--33 Afghan students studying in the town of Novomoskovsk, near Tula, in the branch of the Moscow Institute of Chemistry and Technology, refuted the allegations of the British newspaper TIMES. In an open letter published today by the newspaper of the Tula Region KOMMUNAR, the young Afghans ridiculed the allegation of TIMES that hundreds of Afghan political prisoners are being detained at a metallurgical plant in Tula, 140 miles from Moscow.

The students from Afghanistan came to Novomoskovsk four months ago and study there now at the preparatory department. They were surprised by the reference of TIMES to a certain "Mulla Vayez."

"Neither in the Tula Region nor in Afghanistan's Embassy in Moscow anybody ever heard about "Mulla Vayez's existence, the students write. We know that except for us there are no Afghan citizens here."

"We live in a hostel with Soviet friends as brothers, the letter says. We travel freely over cities of the Soviet Union. During our vacations we visited the regional centre, Tula, and went to Leningrad, and we were warmly welcomed by Soviet people wherever we went."

"The whole world knows that our country is a friend of the USSR, the Afghan students note. The Soviet Union is now giving to Afghanistan economic, political and military assistance envisaged by the treaties between our countries. We are indignant at the slanderous allegations of TIMES. We protest against them and condemn falsehoods published in the bourgeois press about Afghanistan and our friend, the USSR."